louisianakids,inc.

An Educational & Entertainment Organization

LOUISIANA KIDS, INC. COMPETITION GUIDE BOOK 2017

Welcome to Louisiana Kids, Inc.

A not-for-profit charitable/educational and entertainment organization 501(C)(3)
Louisiana's only league of entertainers!

Louisiana Kids, Inc., co-founded by Mike Hymel and Ted Bergeron in 1998, is dedicated to teaching America's young performers to share their talented gifts for the benefit of others. We open our membership to all young performers ages three through High School Seniors. We have a competition format for those interested. We also present a variety of shows to audiences of all sizes, for wholesome, family oriented events, celebrations, conventions, reunions, fairs and festivals.

Louisiana Kids, Inc. has become a force in changing the world through its efforts to create a deeper bond within the family. We teach ways to contribute one's talented gifts in a way that benefits others. We use the performing arts to build character. We want to assist in presenting the world with positive, drug-free patriotic young citizens by keeping these young people involved in developing their talented gifts with a major emphasis on helping others.

While many of our members love to entertain, others are interested in the technical aspects of sound, lighting, assembling stage and props and volunteering in general.

Louisiana Kids, Inc. is fueled by many volunteers who donate their time. We welcome you as a member, as a volunteer and as a vision driven financial partner. Our membership drive is throughout the year. Our competitions begin in January and continue through the summer. We have show performances from January 1 through December 31!

We dedicate our organization to God and acknowledge Him in all activities. We welcome your suggestions that come hand in hand with your willingness to stand by us and make a difference in our world.

Our Mission Statement:
We can Change the world through entertainment by:
Maximizing and encouraging the highest potential of every child
Celebrating positive, drug-free lifestyles
Nurturing fairness, integrity and respect for all.
Sharing our talented gifts for the benefit of others
Promoting education – Emphasizing family values
Honoring the commitment of those who gave us our freedom

Who We Are

Louisiana Kids, Inc. is a non-profit 501(C) (3) volunteer organization. Louisiana Kids, Inc. was formed to focus on the God given Talents of our children, while using the Performing Arts as our Vehicle to develop self-esteem and character in children three years of age to senior in High School.

Goal

To provide regular opportunities for young people to perform in wholesome, drug-free environments under the direction of professional educators and entertainers.

Objective

To foster family focus on young people's activities
To provide an atmosphere where young people can support each other
To increase awareness for the needs of others through sharing their talented gifts
To enhance opportunity for young entertainers to develop their potential
To foster an increased sense of professionalism and self-discipline
To serve as an example of positive, drug-free lifestyles

Expected Educational Outcomes

Self-esteem is increased
Loss of fear of audiences
Performers learn to give their talents to change the lives of others
Planning and preparing for events develop future life skills
Families are drawn together

Staff & Volunteer

The Competition, Financial and Production office is in Westwego, Louisiana.
Among those who help keep the non-profit "league of entertainers" running year round is:

Co-Founders and Members of the Executive Board: Mike Hymel and Ted Bergeron provide spiritual and philosophical leadership and insures the principle-centered, educational direction of the organization.

Board of Directors: oversees the management and direction of the organization and is responsible for appropriate funding to carry out the mission statement within the context of various events and activities.

State Directors: responsible for coordinating the State, Regional, National competition, and Director's Training. Whenever the State Directors are mentioned in these Official Guidelines as it relates to competition, it is understood that in his/her absence, the Event Coordinator handles all the responsibilities of said Director. See Event Coordinator below.

Financial Coordinator: responsible for the accurate management of all financial records.

In The Field

State Directors: are responsible for carrying out the organization mission within the State. They are responsible for overseeing Regional Directors and volunteer Show Producers, and Associate Show Producers in the state to take the mission to as many performing young people as possible. State Directors work under the guidance of the Board of Directors.

Regional Directors: after training are responsible for carrying the mission statement of the organization within their local area. In addition to assisting at competition events, the Regional Director seeks and develops show opportunities for our members.

Event Coordinator (hereafter may be referred to as "EC"): is appointed prior to the competition and is the person in charge and on site at a particular competition. This person may or may not be the State Director. If it is not the State Director, the EC works under the guidance of the State Director. The EC is responsible for all pre-competition planning and coordination as well as maintaining a professional event and follow-up post event responsibilities.

Show Producers: are trained volunteers who seek and produce performance opportunities for members throughout the year. They also assist the State Directors or Event Coordinator with each level of competition.

Associate Show Producers: are trained volunteers who seek and produce performance opportunities for members throughout the year. **They are on a twelve month trial basis**.

Participating Studios: performing arts studios who participate with us for our mutual goals and desires of promoting young people. We appreciate and respect the gifts of the studio instructors and therefore, offer benefits to Studios for joining our mission. See "Participating Studios", page 29.

Performance Opportunities

Sharing our Talented gifts through presenting Shows

An objective of Louisiana Kids, Inc. is to increase the awareness of the needs of others through sharing their talented gifts. This enhances the opportunity for young people to become aware of their potential and fosters an increased sense of professionalism and self-discipline while teaching respect for the rights of others. Our certified State Directors, Regional Directors and Show Producers play an important part in helping to create show opportunities for our members.

Invitations to Shows

The Louisiana Kids, Inc. Organization has presented over 5,000 shows since 1998. Our shows range from small nursing home presentations to half-time shows at football games, we perform shows on cruise ships, at military reunions, for families and children in crises – we share our talented gifts for the benefit of others. The most active areas are those in which a Louisiana Kids, Inc. Show Producer seeks and provides show opportunities for members.

When you enter a competition, State Directors, Regional Directors and Show Producers and Associate Show Producers are able to assess your abilities to determine which shows are appropriate for you. Members, when invited to shows, whether by email or printed in the newsletter, should answer yes or no. It is all right if the answer is no, however, you must respond as it is polite, professional and sensitive to write or call about a show invitation. Please check our website www.louisianakids.us. Listed on the calendar section are all show opportunities. Please email or call the Show Producer or Director if you are available to perform. If the show is posted as "CAST FULL" this means we already have a full cast for the entire event.

Members who consistently accept the most perceived insignificant shows, who always respond yes or no, who say thank you, who are prepared and have a supportive and professional attitude, are remembered when high profile shows become available. When television and film opportunities arise, these dedicated members are invited first because they have shown a commitment to their talented gifts. They live a part of the Louisiana Kids, Inc. mission statement of sharing their talented gifts for the benefit of others.

In order are the most requested styles of music for shows:
1. Country 2. Variety 3. Gospel 4. Patriotic 5. Broadway 6. Holiday

Arrive at a show looking professional, in a great looking (not expensive, just fun) casual outfit with your hair, face and nails ready for the public to see. Once you are in costume, you should not mingle with the crowd. Do not perform in street clothes, show respect for the audience by performing in costume. All accompaniments must be on high quality Audio Recordable Accompaniment CD-R or MP3's as instructed by show producer for that show, and may have only one background song per CD-R or MP3. Each CD-R should be labeled with the name of your music, your first and last name, and length of music or MP3file emailed to show producer with same information. Bring a duplicate backup CD-R or Flash drive with your MP3 in case yours is lost or damaged. Be prepared to perform subsequent acts. Someone may be sick and not show up and thus a performer may be asked to do more than planned. If you are not sure what to wear to a show, please check the website for the specific show. Instructions on costume and dress code will be posted.

Scholarships

Our Executive Board has set as a goal for Louisiana Kids, Inc. to become one of the larger performance scholarship programs in the State. Because of our twenty year history, Memorial Scholarships are given in addition to General Scholarships, Continuing Education Scholarships, and also we seek scholarship support from universities. These scholarships are given to members who are high school seniors and will be redeemable at the beginning of the students' 2nd semester of their sophomore year. Continuing Education Scholarships are given to members that continue to support the Louisiana Kids, Inc. Organization during their Collage or Trade School terms and are redeemable when the member applies for their upcoming semester.

Louisiana Kids, Inc. strives to offer as many college scholarships as possible and always has more requests than scholarships to offer. Scholarships are offered through an application process, and awarded based on need, length of service to this organization, etc. Also considered are personal goals, service and dedication to career.

Workshops

The Louisiana Kids, Inc. organization offers periodic performance workshops in many locations and in a variety of workshop styles. Some of these performance workshops are presented by Louisiana Kids, Inc.'s sanctioned organizations.

Workshops are intended to assist in the personal and professional development of young entertainers and to educate their parents as to the career need for a well-rounded performer.

Our one-day workshops can offer seminars in some of the following:

- Appearance: Hair, make-up, nails, costumes, gestures, posture.
- Staging: Preparing an act for presentation coupled with movement, eye contact, appearance, and technique.
- The "business" of the music business: Discussing a potential career in entertainment, learning about agents / managers / publicists / booking agents / contracts / attorneys and the entire team needed to pursue a career.
- Presence: The total package one offers to the public.
- Technical Workshops: These can be dance workshops in which new routines are taught; vocal workshops in which various methods to enhance technique are taught; or, methods of enhancing specialty acts; Show / Performance Workshops in which mini shows are taught and presented, generally at the end of a two or more day period.
- Acting / Drama – Workshops in enhancing ones act and career.

Trainers: A professional selection of directors, actors, choreographers, vocal and dance coaches, counselors, make-up artists, booking agents, entertainment managers, show producers, theme park show producers, song writers, instructors and so forth are utilized for the workshop presentations.

Overview: Memberships & Competitions

All Membership Levels gain free admittance to all non-food events.
This can be a great savings to you as you plan to attend numerous levels of competition.

We have 5 levels of Membership:

- Performing Member – This member may compete as a soloist or group member in competitions. Some additional benefits of being a member of Louisiana Kids, Inc. include: live performance opportunities, providing film, television, park or play audition information, performance workshops, performing arts camps, etc.
- Sibling Member – This member is a non-performing member that supports their sibling. Often these members become involved in other areas of volunteerism with the organization. Some are young and aspiring to perform.
- Contributing Adult Member – This member is supporting the mission statement of Louisiana Kids, Inc., often parents, grandparents and teachers join and subsequently become active volunteers.
- Contributing Married Couples – This membership provides that same support as Contributing Members, however, the fee is discounted for a husband and wife.
- Alumni – This member is a former Louisiana Kids, Inc. Performer who has graduated from high school, yet continues to share the mission of our organization. They continue to be involved as emcees, tech crews, teachers, etc. They may continue to compete in our Alumni Division to twenty-five years of age, even if they did not compete prior to their graduation.

We have 3 levels of Competition:

- Regional Competition – There can be several Regional Competitions. Regional is the first level of competition and is held late winter through early spring.
- State Competition – There may be one or more State Competitions held within the state. It is the highest in-state level and may include members from various states. They can be a one or two day event, depending on the number of acts participating.
- National Finals – This is generally a five day event every July and may be held in different locations (i.e., Branson, Missouri, Nashville, Tennessee, etc.) This event is open to all contestants who have advanced from a Louisiana Kids, Inc. State Finals or a qualifying event.

We have 34 Talent Categories:

Categories	Styles
Vocal Blues	Any Style. It is weighted in Entertainment.
Vocal Character	Includes songs sung as a specific character or character impersonations. It is weighted in Commitment.
Vocal Classical	Any classical or operatic piece done in classical concert style. Must demonstrate classical skill or training. It is weighted in Technique.
Vocal Combination	Is to include an equal portion of a vocal act with any combination of the three major categories – Vocal, Dance or General Variety. It is weighted in Entertainment.
Vocal Country	All styles – traditional, new country, rock-a-billy, etc. It is weighted in Entertainment.
Vocal Gospel	All styles – traditional, contemporary, southern, etc. It is weighted in Commitment.
Vocal Musical Theater	Songs from Broadway, Off-Broadway or Movie (can dress 'in character' or not). It is weighted in Commitment.
Vocal National Anthem	Any style of the National Anthem. It is weighted in Commitment.
Vocal Patriotic	Includes music that honors country, state, region or city. It is weighted in Commitment.
Vocal Popular	Any song on the Top 40 Pop Charts from any decade. It is weighted in Entertainment.
Vocal Serious	Includes most Broadway, Jazz, Opera and Adult Contemporary type song of a serious nature. It is weighted in Technique.
Dance Ballet/Lyrical	Includes pointe, lyrical jazz and ballet. It is a non-weighted category.
Dance Baton	A routine using baton(s) and baton technique. It is a non-weighted category.
Dance Character	A routine in which a character is portrayed, such as Broadway, television, movie, stereotype, etc. Incorporated with dance technique and choreography. It is a non-weighted category.
Dance Cheerleading	A routine that has a combination of strong, sharp movements, vocal cheering and dance. May contain up to 50% acro-gymnastics. It is a non-weighted category.
Dance Clogging	Includes back and wing, round, square and country line dancing. It is a non-weighted category.
Dance Combination	To include equal portion of a Dance with any combination of the three major categories of Vocal, Dance or General Variety. It is a non-weighted category.
Dance Contemporary	A routine which combines both lyrical and modern movements. It is a non-weighted category.
Dance Folkloric	A routine incorporating ethnic styles of dance such as Polkas, Hawaiian, Spanish, Indian, Cajun, etc. It is a non-weighted category.

Dance Funk/Hip Hop	A routine that consists of the latest street dance styles, as seen in current dance videos, or of the latest trendy style of today's dance techniques. It is a non-weighted category.
Dance Jazz	A routine that utilizes jazz technique such as splits, isolation, leaps, etc. It is a non-weighted category.
Dance Other	Includes accordance, gymnastics, pom poms, aerobic dance and dance combinations. Any dance that does not have a category listed. It is a non-weighted category.
Dance Tap	Includes soft tap routines. It is a non-weighted category.
General Variety Instrumental	All styles and type. It is a non-weighted category.
General Variety Other	Includes ventriloquism, lip-sync, circus type acts to include juggling, rope-spinning, unicycle, clown, puppets, martial arts, jump-roping, or any act which will not fit into any other sub-talent category. It is a non-weighted category.
General Variety Piano/Keyboard	Includes any type of music played on a piano. It is a non-weighted category.
Acting Monologue Dramatic	A part of a published script or theater excerpt in which a single actor speaks for one or more characters. The dramatic monologue has a serious theme. Gestures, voicing and movement can be used to portray a character or evoke the serious content. It is a non-weighted category.
Acting Monologue Comedic	A part of a published script or theater excerpt in which a single actor speaks for one or more characters. The comedic monologue is humorous in content with a light and funny theme. Gestures, voicing and movement can be used to demonstrate the comedic content. It is a non-weighted category.
Acting Skit Dramatic	A part of a published script or theater excerpt in which two or more actors speaks for one or more characters. The dramatic monologue has a serious theme. Gestures, voicing and movement can be used to portray a character or evoke the serious content. It is a non-weighted category.
Acting Skit Comedic	A part of a published script or theater excerpt in which two or more actors speaks for one or more characters. The comedic monologue is humorous in content with a light and funny theme. Gestures, voicing and movement can be used to demonstrate the comedic content. It is a non-weighted category.
Acting Narrative Reading	The Narrative Reading is a story or essay that reveals connected events, real or imaginary. The reader can present multiple viewpoints, plots, settings and events all of which form a complete story or theme. The actor generally reads from a podium. It is a non-weighted category.
Acting Poetic Reading	This is a public oral recitation of a poem, sonnet, ode or elegy. It can be memorized or read. This is a Vocal Art form in which the performer interprets the lines of the work with changes in vocal intonation, pauses and inflection to create interest and meaning for the audience. It is a non-weighted category.

Acting Public Speaking	This is the oral communication of a speech to an audience. A speech is a collection of thoughts, remarks or declarations that express information and opinions that summarize a viewpoint. It is a non-weighted category.
Acting Stand Up Comedy	In Stand-Up Comedy the performer speaks directly to the audience and delivers a fast-paced succession of humorous stories or short jokes (called "bits" or "one-liner") that constitute a routine or act designed to evoke laughter. It is a non-weighted category.

We have 3 Aspects to our Competition

(Tickets are available to purchase for all Non-Paid Members.
Prices vary from venue to venue and are based on our cost.)

- Competition – Unless held in a large open space such as a mall, there will be admission fees to all levels of competition including Regional, State, and National Finals events. Contestants, Participating Studios (see page 29 and all other paid members such as Adult, Alumni, and Sibling Members, will be admitted free by **presenting their Membership Card.**

- Cast Party – Contestants are always free to the Cast Party. All others are invited but must purchase tickets to cover the cost of the food. Parents that wish to attend to be supportive but choose not to eat are welcome to do so within certain guidelines. Generally the Cast Party takes place just prior to the Awards Ceremony. However, at our National Finals, the Cast Party may be earlier in the week or after the event is over.

- Awards Ceremony – Unless held in a large open space such as a mall, there will be admission fees to all Awards Ceremonies. Contestants, Participating Studios (see page 29 and all other paid members such as Adult, Alumni, and Sibling Members, will be admitted free by **presenting their Membership Card.**

Regional Competition

Hereafter may be referred to as "Regional(s)"

Regional can be the first experience for new members and as such, the event becomes a learning experience. Regional can be all day wherein the performer is exposed to on-stage emcees, judging panels and the challenge of appearing before a larger audience.

Regional begins with Check-In (see "Event Check-In", page 19) and mandatory contestant / parent group meeting. The entire competition family meets for a Louisiana Kids, Inc. Orientation. During this meeting, members and their families learn more about the mission, hear announcements addressing rules, schedule changes plus other current news about the organization.

A team of volunteers manage each Regional beginning with Check-In to the giving of prizes (a/k/a the Awards Ceremony) and the Cast Party. Services available at Regional can include a souvenir booth where a variety of T-shirts and souvenirs are available. A professional one-camera video taping service and photographer may be available. Optional services may include vendor booths such as hair and makeup, refreshment booth or other performance related items / services.

The actual competition is presented as a show and is kept moving by emcees. A team of judges score the acts. The 50 point scoring is done through a computer program, designed for Louisiana Kids, Inc. Each act (not competitor) is scored on the act's individual merits. In other words, one of your acts may qualify to advance to the next level of competition, while another may not. (See "Level to Start", page 17)

The Family Cast Party bonds the extended Louisiana Kids, Inc. family. The contestants are given a time for dancing, fun and games together. It is held either prior to the Awards Ceremony (during the final compilation of scores) or immediately following it.

There is a separate Awards Ceremony where every child entered in the competition will receive a medallion. Then, overall awards are announced and prizes, trophies and cash awards are given. Families and guests are encouraged to attend.

A minimum of 75% up to a maximum of 85% of all acts will advance from Regional to State Finals. Percent may vary according to the State Director decision. The score to advance to State Finals (next level) will be announced at the Awards Ceremony. Following the Awards Ceremony the score-sheets are available to be picked up by the contestant or Act Representative. Act sheets are located on a selected table generally in the lobby of the competition event. No scores or placements are mailed. Each contestant is responsible for checking their score(s) to see if their act(s) scored high enough to advance to State Finals. Packets for State Finals are mailed to qualifying contestant after the last Regional Competition.

State Finals Competition

Hereafter may be referred to as "State"

State competition is the highest in-state level to be achieved and may include members from various states. The entire competition is structured to reflect the higher level of achievement of the competitors. Competition can be a one to two day event, depending on number of acts participating.

If State should be the first level of competition (i.e., there are no Regional), then there will be a mandatory contestant / parent group meeting following Check-In. The entire competition family meets for a Louisiana Kids, Inc. Orientation. During this meeting, members and their families learn more about the mission, hear announcements addressing rules, schedule changes plus other current news about the organization.

State is held either in the host hotel with a created stage or in a theater. The event may include a wide variety of souvenirs and gifts. Available at this event may be a multi-camera professional video

crew wherein valuable, educational experience is given to each young person as they learn to perform in front of a video camera. Families and guests are encouraged to attend.

The Family Cast Party bonds the extended Louisiana Kids, Inc. family. It is held either prior to the Awards Ceremony (during the final compilation of scores) or immediately following.

There is a separate Awards Ceremony where members, volunteers and graduating seniors can be acknowledged and college and performance scholarships can be given. Placement, prizes, trophies, and cash awards will be given for the State acts, determined by using the scoring system. Once again, all are encouraged to attend in support of our young people.

Acts are scored by a panel of professional judges. A minimum of 75% up to a maximum of 85% of all acts will advance to the National Finals event. Percent may vary according to the State Director decision. The score to advance to Nationals (next level) will be announced at the Awards Ceremony. Following the Awards Ceremony the scores sheets are available to be picked up by the contestants or Act Representatives. These are at a selected table generally located in the lobby of the competition event. No score-sheets or placements are mailed. Each contestant is responsible for checking their score(s) to see if their act(s) scored high enough to advance to Nationals. Packets for Nationals are included in every contestant score sheet package.

National Finals

Hereafter may be referred to as National(s)

A patriotic and spirited multi-day event, National Finals competition brings together young people from many states. They share their talented gifts before each other and before a team of nationally recognized performance professionals. This event may be held in any area of the Country which is a family oriented area (*i.e.*, New Orleans, LA; Branson, MO; Nashville, TN; Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX; Tampa/Orlando, FL; etc.)

Scoring of the competition is identical to Regional and State. Available here, too, are souvenirs, refreshments and other performance related booths plus 2 to 3 camera video taping of each act. Optional workshops and informal gatherings can also be offered.

The respected professional judges have the capacity to assist any of the young performers, who they feel has the dedication and ability to achieve a performance career.

Prizes, trophies, cash awards and scholarships are presented at the end of the competition with a jubilant Awards Ceremony, in which every participating state is recognized.

There will be a Cast Party where positive empowering music and games display the support shown from every member. Here, games, music and food rule!

Event scores are handed out at the end of the event. None are mailed.

Glossary

To make your study of the following Competition Guidelines more easily understood we have placed this Glossary here rather than at the end of this book.

- Act: One entertainment routine.
- Act Representatives: Point contact between Act Entity and Louisiana Kids, Inc. staff.
- Advancing / Advancement: An Act qualifying to advance between sequential levels of Competition.
- Age Category: The category you compete in.
- Commitment: Judge's term for "communication with confidence".
- Designee: Appointed by the Act Representative.
- Emcee Cards: A card Act Representatives fill out with information necessary for our emcees to properly introduce acts.
- Entertainment: Judge's term for "enjoyable or overall creativity" of an act.
- Entity: Can be a soloist or a group.
- Group: A group is two or more individuals who perform together.
- Professionalism: Judge's term for "overall stage presentation, including entering, exiting and handling on-stage challenges".
- Qualifying Committee: Consists of State Directors, the Event Coordinator, the Stage Manager and an Executive Board member or Board of Director if available.
- Re-Do Acts: Entering an act for the second time at the same level within a year's competition season. See page 19.
- Sequence: The published order in which the Acts will perform.
- Tech Sheets: A form Act Representatives fill out with detailed technical information about their act.
- Technique: Judge's term for "ability and skills".
- Time Limit: The maximum allowable length of an Act.
- Timekeeper: A person who times each Act with a stopwatch.
- Video / DVD Entry: An Act mailed to us in VHS or DVD format for the purpose of qualifying said Act.
- Videographer: A professional video crew contracted at most all events to video acts.

Everything Else to Know for an Enjoyable and Successful Competition Season

Accompaniment CD-R or MP3's and Point Deduction

Accompaniment CD-R must be on a high quality Audio Recordable Compact Disc -R.

- They must be a high quality Audio Recordable Accompaniment CD-R without static or any unnecessary noise.
- A quality CD-R, like a costume will add professionalism to an Act.
- A poor quality CD-R will detract from the performance.
- If an accompaniment CD-R is NOT on the above-stated CD-R format, there is a possibility that the Sound System will NOT be able to play it.
- All CD-R must have no other music or song except the one to accompany your act (each act on separate CD-R).
- Each CD-R is to have printed on it: Name of contestant and act, name of music, and time length.
- It is the responsibility of the Act Representative to turn in accompaniment tract at the Event Check-In.
- One point may be deducted from the final averaged score if the wrong accompaniment CD-R for the Act is turned in and as a result, played.
- You must be within the time limits to avoid penalty point deductions. See "Time Limits", page 30.
- It is the responsibility of the Act Representative to insure the accompaniment CD-R meets all the above requirements. Failure to do so, may result in the Act being disqualified.
- (AUDIO TAPES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.)

Vocal on Accompaniment CD-R

- A solo vocal may have accompanying group vocals on the track, provided there are no lead melody accompaniments.
- For all groups, background vocals are considered lead vocals, therefore, are not acceptable. The responsibility lies with the contestant(s).
- For all acts which any portion of the act includes singing, there may not be any lead voices on your accompaniment CD-R that would appear to assist the technical ability of the contestant(s), or hinder the judges from scoring the actual vocal skill of the contestants.
- It will be the final decision of the judges whether or not the act was assisted by the vocals on any track and will not be open for appeal.

Accompaniment CD-R Pick-Up

Accompaniment tracks may be picked up at the Check-In table at the end of the competition. Only the Act Representative or Designee with proper identification may pick up accompaniment CD-R.

Everything Else to Know for an Enjoyable and Successful Competition Season - continued

Act Representatives:

- The Act Representative is the sole point of contact between the State Directors or the Event Coordinator and all members of an act. The Solo and / or Group Act Representative must be present at all times during the event (see note regarding "Designee").
- Solo Act Representatives are predetermined to be the parent / legal guardian. There is provision to assign the responsibilities of the Act Representative to another; for example, a performing arts coach. This is accomplished by the parent when submitting the competition entry form.
- Group Act Representative should be of legal age and responsible for all members of an act. The group must decide and appoint an act representative. This Representative must sign the release on the Group Entry Form when submitting the competition entry form. (Note: There is a provision to assign the responsibilities of the Act Representative to another for unusual circumstances. This is a temporary Designee in the absence of the Act Representative.)
- The Act Representative may assign a Designee to act on his or her behalf where allowed within these guidelines in the event there are situations that come up unexpectedly when the Act Representative cannot be present at an event. The Act Representative must in writing, notify the Director of Competition or State Directors prior to the competition or at Check-In who the Designee will be. Using a Designee does not alleviate the Act Representative's responsibilities as directed in these rules. If the Designee is to become the Act Representative then the Check-In staff must be notified in advance of this change. The old Act Representative will then forfeit all rights granted in these rules.
- Before a change in the Act Representative can be made, permission from the old Act Representative or the Director of Competition or State Directors must be received in writing.
- The Act Representative or Designee is responsible for insuring that all information concerning an act is written on the Tech Sheet and that the Accompaniment CD is turned in at Event Check-In.

Age Category:

Your age as of January 1 of the current year, determines the Age Category your act will compete in.

- 5 & under
- 6 to 8
- 9 to 11
- 12 to 14
- 15 thru High School Senior
- Alumni Division Graduate to 25 Years of Age

For all group acts, the average age determines the Age Category of the entity. All fractions will be rounded down to the whole number. For example, an average age of 12.1 will be 12, and thus will be in the 12-14 Age Category; an average age of 12.9 will also be 12, and in the 12-14 Age Category. Act Representatives will be responsible for providing proof of age to the Director of Competition or State Directors should a question arise.

Everything Else to Know for an Enjoyable and Successful Competition Season - continued

Appeals

Contestant Appeal: This form of appeal is used only if the contestant leaves the stage within 20 seconds.

The following are the only instances when this applies:

- Contestant cannot hear the music, the music is not loud enough, if (where existing) tap microphones are too loud or too soft, or if the wrong music is played **and** the contestant has 20 seconds to leave the stage or there will be no basis for an Appeal.
- The Act Representative assumes full responsibility in ensuring his or her contestant(s) understand the above procedures.
- In this instance where the act is not completed it will not be scored.

Act Representative Appeal: The appeal must be made by the Act Representative.

The following are the only instances when this applies:

- Appeal forms are available at the Auditor table.
- The Appeal will be made directly to the Event Coordinator or State Directors (when applicable) who will immediately report to the Director of Competition.
- The Qualifying Committee makes appeal determinations.
- Appeals will be accepted for technical problems that occurred beyond the control of the act.
- It is the responsibility of the Act Representative to file the Appeal immediately after the performance of the act (within 20 minutes of the problem) or there will be no basis for an Appeal.
- Problems such as: physiological, scratchy accompaniment track, using wrong type of microphone, entering from the wrong side of the stage, performing into or behind curtains or props, props placed in the wrong position, stumbling over cords, forgetting the words, etc., will not be considered.
- An Act Representative may inquire about whether a particular penalty has been assessed to an act and may then make an Appeal. This must be done immediately after the performance or the Appeal will be denied. Only "yes" or "no" answers will be given to penalty inquiries. Scores will not be given or revealed to the contestant or Act Representative during an Appeal.
- If an entity repeats an act on Appeal, the score from the repeated performance will be used as the score for the act.
- In the interest of supporting the child, while an act may be disqualified from competition, it still may be able to appear.

Awards Ceremony

Every child competing in the competition will be recognized and receive a medallion (Medallions, page 22). Awards are announced and prizes, trophies and cash awards are presented. State Scholarships will be announced. Families and guests are encouraged to attend.

Everything Else to Know for an Enjoyable and Successful Competition Season - continued

Backstage Rules and Etiquette

Backstage

- All performers are to be ready backstage to enter the stage five acts before their published sequence.

- All performers are to wait off stage until the emcee introduces them, unless otherwise instructed. Failure to do so may result in a one-point deduction or disqualification.
- If a contestant is participating in multiple acts, we strive to put a minimum of 3-4 acts between presentations, however, in the event of a smaller event, exceptions will be considered for difficult costume changes.

Green Room

- The Green Room, where available, is for all contestants, male and female, and is to be used for preparing physically and mentally for their performance. It is not a place for letting off steam, roughhousing, goofing off, or inappropriate socializing.
- Parents are not allowed in the Green Room or back stage area unless approved in advance by the Stage Manager.
- Parents with children 5 years and under may assist backstage but MUST get prior approval from the Stage Manager. Only one parent or guardian back stage.

Dressing Rooms

- Dressing rooms will be provided for both sexes to allow for appropriate privacy.
- Mothers are NOT allowed in the dressing room provided for male contestants and father are NOT allowed in dressing rooms provided for the female contestants.

Costumes

A costume will add professionalism to an act

- If possible, each act is to be individually costumed. This does not mean one costume for the entire competition.
- The costume needs to suit the song and set the mood. For example, Country acts may need more casual costumes than something from an opera, etc.
- If we say a costume is not appropriate, it is nothing personal, it just does not meet the "stage" standards of the show / competition.
- School and church clothes are not costumes, even if they are new.
- All performers (male and female) are asked to wear "stage make-up" in order to suit the stage lights. You are not required to purchase special professional make-up, but rather, use what is available to you.
- Modesty must be used with each costume, because we strive to teach high moral standards in our kids.
- Knowing body piercing is an individual's decision; a professional image does not include body piercing with the exception of earrings. All other piercings may be put back in once a show has concluded.

Everything Else to Know for an Enjoyable and Successful Competition Season - continued

Disqualifications

Disqualification from the competition may result for any of the following reasons:

- Drug, tobacco, or alcohol use.
- Vandalism or abuse of the facility.

- Talking to or disturbing a Tech or Crew member actively involved with an act or contestant.
- Talking to a judge or auditor.
- Maliciously disturbing or distracting a performance or routine.
- Maliciously disturbing or distracting a contestant preparing for an act in a Green Room or dressing room.
- Acts performed or clothes worn in a distasteful, inappropriate, or offensive manner. An example would be exposed midriff. Discretion must be used.
- Failure to be back stage ready to compete in published sequence within 5 acts of appearance.
- See detailed information under "Groups, Changes in the Group Dynamics", page 19, for circumstances that could result in disqualification.

Divisions

There are 5 Divisions which represent the number of members in an Act Entity.

- A solo is an individual who performs alone.
- Duet/Trio
- Small Group – (4/5)
- Large Group – (6/9)
- Production – (10 +)
- A group is two or more individuals who perform together. A person used as a prop, is counted as a contestant and effects the act's Age Category. See "Person as Prop", page 25.

Entering Competitions – Advancing

Level to Start:

- If you reside in a state that has Regional events you must begin at the Regional level. After competing in a Regional event, if your score reaches the minimum required score to advance, you may compete at State Finals.
- Regional to State Finals: A minimum of 75% up to a maximum of 85% of all acts will advance. This percent could change according to the discretion of the State Directors.
- All others begin with State per the following scenarios:
    - If you reside in a state that has State Finals only, your first level will be State Finals.
    - If the state where you reside has no competitions, your first level will be State Finals.
    - There are no "state boundaries", you may go to a State Finals in any state, subject to your entry being submitted by the designated entry deadline date for the State Finals in which you wish to compete.
- Video / DVD Entry is for those who live in a state where there are no competitions and it is not possible for you to travel to another state. Please visit our web site, www.louisianakids.us for a list of State event dates and deadlines.

Everything Else to Know for an Enjoyable and Successful Competition Season - continued

Entering Competitions – Advancing continued

- You must submit an Entry Form and the State act fee for each act you would like to be considered.

- The video / DVD and act fees must be received no later than the entry deadline date for the last posted State event in any state. See Website for this information.
- The video / DVD act fee is $10.00 additional act fee cost per act.
- Judging may take place after the event is over, the act/acts may qualify you to State and or Nationals but may not qualify you for any special awards or scholarships for the following year State Finals event.
- The video / DVD (s) must be mailed to Louisiana Kids, Inc. at 1132 Barbe Drive, Westwego, Louisiana 70094.
- The video / DVD will be judged by a panel of judges and score-sheets will be returned to you (no medallions, trophies or cash awards will be given for these entries).
- You will be informed if your act(s) reached the minimum required score to advance to Nationals.
- You will need to enter Nationals by the posted deadline.

- State Finals to Nationals: A minimum of 75% up to a maximum of 85% of all acts will advance to the National Finals event. This percent could change according to the discretion of the State Directors.

Number of Acts You May Enter

- At a competition, an entity may enter as many acts per Talent Category as desired.
- An entity may not win within one Talent Category more than once at the same event. In other words, an entity cannot be the winner and the runner-up in the same Talent Category.
- All acts that qualify can advance from level to level.

Ties Will Advance

If a tie should occur during any segment, or level of this competition, all tied acts will receive the same placement to qualify for advancement to the next level of competition.

What Changes Are Allowable

- Except for a change in costume, choreographic enhancement, or props, the entity is expected to perform the same act as was originally entered at the first level of competition.
- Regarding changes in the members of a Group, please see guidelines under **Groups**, Changes in Group Dynamics, page 19.

Alternate Acts

If an advancing act chooses not to compete in the National Finals signified by failing to meet the competition entry deadline, alternate acts may be asked to compete. The Director of Competition will make this determination.

Special Consideration

Special consideration will be given to see that a fair distribution exists across all age categories.

Everything Else to Know for an Enjoyable and Successful Competition Season - continued

Re-Do Acts

- We see our mission fulfilled when children and their acts develop. We know that they will strive to enhance their act and thus we want to give them another opportunity. If a contestant wishes to re-do an act previously performed at a Regional or State Finals, this will be permitted within the following guideline.

- The act must meet the deadline for the future event in which they wish to re-do their act.
- A deadline extension can only be allowed in one instance. The act must be received via Fax paid by check, cash or money order on the Monday following the event where they just competed and did not qualify. The only other option is to send by overnight (via UPS or Federal Express) with cashier's check or money order to arrive the Tuesday following the event where they just competed and did not qualify.

EVENT CHECK IN

Event Check-In Procedure

- Event Check-In must be completed by every contestant by the published scheduled time.
- Tech Sheets, Emcee Cards and accompaniment CD-R or MP3's must be turned in at the Check-In table.
- Any props used in the act must be checked backstage with the Stage Manager.
- In case of groups, only the Act Representative or Designee will fill out Tech Sheets, Emcee Cards and turn in accompaniment CD-R or MP3's. However, all group members must come to Event Check-In to pick up individual packets, which may include ticket orders, etc. (this is a roll call to be sure every group member is present and timely).
- If any act fails to complete Event Check-In by the scheduled time, the only course of action is to make an appeal to the Qualifying Committee. If the act(s) are allowed to perform, there may be a possible point deducted from the final average score.

Groups

A group is two or more individuals who perform together.

- Each Group must create a Group Name, which is used at all competitions. Variations in members of the group, creates a different and unique group.
- The Group Name is what a particular group of individuals call themselves and will be used on Emcee Cards, Official Programs, Newsletters, press releases, etc. The title of your music is not the name of the Group unless you so designate.

Changes in Group Dynamics

Members of groups:

- The members that comprise a Group at one level of competition can only <u>change</u> by 20% when entering the next level of competition.
- In figuring the 20%, we will round up. Example: 8 members x 20% is 1.6. This would allow for 2 members to leave the Group and 2 others to replace them.

Everything Else to Know for an Enjoyable and Successful Competition Season - continued

- The number of members in a group can only increase or decrease by 10%. We will round up using standard rules of rounding. Example: 4 members x 10% is .4, thus this group could not increase or decrease. It must remain a group of 4.
- On the day of competition, if 1 member is not present due to an emergency beyond the control of the group, the group may be allowed to perform. The Act Representative must notify the Director

of Competition or State Directors as soon as he becomes aware of the emergency. Each case will be determined on its merits. In no case may a duet become a solo.

Average age of members:

If there is a change due to a reduction or increase in members, or by replacement of members, which subsequently changes the Age Category, the Act Representative must appeal at the time of entry or the time of the competition, whichever is first, to the Director of Competition or State Directors. Each case will be determined on its merits.

Judges and Their Guidelines

- Louisiana Kids, Inc.'s many years in the performance and education arena has brought alliances and cross-promotional partnerships with working entertainment professionals. We strive to select adjudicators who have worked professionally in the live entertainment field and are youth-friendly.
- We seek those who have the capability and willingness to offer well-written and supportive commentary, which appropriately address the various specific aspects of each performance arena.
- Neither may judges smoke / chew tobacco, nor may they consume alcoholic beverages while within the environment of any of Louisiana Kids, Inc. competition arena. We make every effort to select judges whose high personal conduct standards are coupled with a sense of fairness and faith in our youth.

Judges Criteria Varies Between Levels

- Regional judges have an entertainment-related educational background or commensurate an appropriate experience in the performing arts fields. They must demonstrate a high level of sensitivity for the needs of the contestants. Ideally, Regional judges are those trained in a variety of performing arts fields.
- State judges, in addition to the qualities Louisiana Kids, Inc. seeks in Regional adjudicators, must have a performance or education background in performing arts. Those with an educational background must have worked or taught in their field of choice.
- Nationals judges are sought from among individuals with respected, accredited professional talent agencies, nationally recognized theme parks, film, radio, recording and television industry. We also invite judges from widespread entertainment centers such as New York, Los Angeles, Florida, Branson, Nashville and others. Each year we are able to secure some nationally recognized performers, producers and directors who, if they should choose, have the capability to assist an aspiring young entertainer in their individual career.

Everything Else to Know for an Enjoyable and Successful Competition Season - continued

Judging Guidelines

During all phases of the competition, the contestants will be judged on Commitment, Entertainment, Professionalism, and Technique. A brief description of these terms is found in the Glossary, p. 12.

Weighted Scoring

This is an attempt to insure objectivity in judging and scoring acts.
The following weighted scoring standard will be used by each judge:

How Acts Are Scored

CATEGORY	COMMITMENT	ENTERTAINMENT	TECHNIQUE	PROFESSIONALISM
Vocal Blues	20%	40%	20%	20%
Vocal Character	40%	20%	20%	20%
Vocal Classical	20%	20%	40%	20%
Vocal Combination	20%	40%	20%	20%
Vocal Country	20%	40%	20%	20%
Vocal Gospel	40%	20%	20%	20%
Vocal Musical Theater	40%	20%	20%	20%
Vocal National Anthem	40%	20%	20%	20%
Vocal Patriotic	40%	20%	20%	20%
Vocal Popular	20%	40%	20%	20%
Vocal Serious	20%	20%	40%	20%
Dance Ballet/Lyrical	25%	25%	25%	25%
Dance Baton	25%	25%	25%	25%
Dance Character	25%	25%	25%	25%
Dance Cheerleading	25%	25%	25%	25%
Dance Clogging	25%	25%	25%	25%
Dance Combination	25%	25%	25%	25%
Dance Contemporary	25%	25%	25%	25%
Dance Folkloric	25%	25%	25%	25%
Dance Funk/Hip Hop	25%	25%	25%	25%
Dance Jazz	25%	25%	25%	25%
Dance Other	25%	25%	25%	25%
Dance Tap	25%	25%	25%	25%
General Variety Instrumental	25%	25%	25%	25%
General Variety Other	25%	25%	25%	25%
General Variety Piano/Keyboard	25%	25%	25%	25%
Dance Other	25%	25%	25%	25%
Dance Tap	25%	25%	25%	25%
CATEGORY	VOICING	CHARACTERIZATION	MOVEMENT	OVERALL PRESENTATION
Acting Monologue Dramatic	25%	25%	25%	25%
Acting Monologue Comedic	25%	25%	25%	25%
Acting Skit Dramatic	25%	25%	25%	25%
Acting Skit Comedic	25%	25%	25%	25%
Acting Narrative Reading	25%	25%	25%	25%
Acting Poetic Reading	25%	25%	25%	25%
Acting Public Speaking	25%	25%	25%	25%
Acting Stand Up Comedy	25%	25%	25%	25%

Everything Else to Know for an Enjoyable and Successful Competition Season - continued

Judge's Scores Dropped

If four judges are present at the competition, the lowest score will be dropped before the scores from each judge are added together and averaged. If five or more judges are present, the lowest and the highest scores will be dropped before the scores from each judge are added together and averaged. If there are three or less judges, no scores will be dropped.

Judge Abstention
If for any reason a judge cannot judge the entire Talent Category within a given level of competition, the judge will be considered absent and the score will be dropped from all acts in the given Talent Category. The remaining scores for each act in the given Talent Category will then be re-averaged according to previous rule stated in this section and used to determine winners and act advancement.

Judge's Decisions
The decisions of the judges' officials are final. Except where noted in these rules, the Director of Competition cannot overrule their decision.

Medallion Placement

Within the context of our sequential competitions medallions are given to every contestant based on their placement. Purple Ribbon - Gold with Honors, Blue Ribbon – Gold, and Red Ribbon - Silver. The difference between receiving a Silver medallion and a Gold medallion can be a tenth of a percent, the same is true of the difference between Gold and Gold with Honors. Based on the computer averages per event, breaking points are determined by the State Directors and the Director of Competition.

High score in each Age and Talent Category will receive a Red, White and Blue Ribbon Medallion for 1st place.

Membership

Membership Forms are available from the State Office and downloadable from our web site. www.louisianakids.us.

- Membership is renewed annually and is on a calendar year basis.
- Membership must be established in order to compete. You may perform in show productions no more than once as a guest performer.
- For further explanation of the "Levels of Membership", see page 6.

Everything Else to Know for an Enjoyable and Successful Competition Season - continued

Parent / Contestant Meeting

The first level of competition within the state begins with a mandatory parent / contestant briefing.

- This meeting is generally the morning of the event however, in cases of events with high enrollment the required meeting can be the night before.

- At this gathering the mission of Louisiana Kids, Inc. is discussed as well as necessary highlights of the Guidebook.
- We end with explaining the process of the specific event attended.

Payments and Refunds

Payments
- Please make all checks payable to Louisiana Kids, Inc.
- No credit cards are accepted.
- Returned checks will be charged $35.00.
- Group Acts must send one form of payment for an act. We will not accept several forms of payment from each parent / family unless otherwise agreed upon by the Executive Director in advance.

Refunds
In the case of a death or critical illness of an immediate family member or contestant which would prevent said contestant from competing, and if Louisiana Kids, Inc. is notified immediately upon knowledge of need for cancellation, refund requests will be honored. Louisiana Kids, Inc. reserves the right to determine whether a notification was made timely and is considered verifiable.

Penalties / Point Deductions

One or more points may be deducted from the averaged score for any of the following reasons:
- Failure to comply with Check-In scheduled time.
- Act Overtime limit.
- Act Over set-up time limit.
- Failure to meet official CD / MP3 requirements.
- Wrong accompaniment CD / MP3 is turned in.
- Failure to meet printed / published performance time as listed in the sequence of a specific event.
- Failure to be backstage within 5 acts of appearance (also can be disqualified).
- Roughhousing, running, shouting, "goofing off" in the theatre lobby, or backstage.
- Disrespectful to any Director, Producer, Contestant or Guest.

Everything Else to Know for an Enjoyable and Successful Competition Season - continued

Prizes – Cash Awards

Cash Prizes are printed on the Louisiana Kids, Inc. website, www.louisianakids.us.
- Cash awards are given to winning acts that have achieved Gold or Gold with Honors (see Medallion Placement, page 22).
- For each level of competition, there are no restrictions as to the number of cash awards an ENTITY may win.
- The cash awards and trophies will be given at the conclusion of the respective competition in a designated area and is referred to as the Awards Ceremony.

- The performer(s) of an act must be present at the Awards Ceremony of each level of competition in order to receive the awards for a particular placement at that level of competition.
- The Act Representative or the Designee **may not accept** the cash and trophy award.

Prizes – Cash Awards – continued

- The Act Representative or Designee may accept the medallion award on behalf of the contestants.
- The representative MUST physically come forward to receive this medallion award when the act name is called DURING the Awards Ceremony. Once the Awards Ceremony has ended, no unclaimed medallions will be given or mailed.
- If one entity has the first and second highest scores within one Talent Category, they can not receive cash and trophy prizes more than once at the same event. In other words, an entity cannot be the winner and the runner-up in the same Talent Category. In these cases, the next highest score will be awarded the runner up.
- If a particular category does not have a winner or the winner is not present at the Awards Ceremony, the appropriate cash award, trophies or medallions will go unclaimed and automatically put in the Louisiana Kids, Inc. Scholarship Fund. No cash awards, trophies or medallions will be mailed.
- With regards to the 34 Talent Categories, an act with no competition within their respective Talent Category, is competing with the same scoring standard as those with competition and is not automatically given the cash award and trophy. In order to place first in a Talent Category, an act with no competition must receive an average score equal to or greater than the average score of acts in the other categories.
- Prize checks must be cashed within 3 months or will be voided and will not be replaced. The funds will then be put in the Scholarship Fund.
- No cash awards or trophies will be given on Video / DVD Entries.

Ties with Cash Awards

- For any Louisiana Kids, Inc. Competitions that have placements with a cash award, ties of up to 2 acts will be given an equal percentage of the cash award.
- In cases of 3 or more acts tied, the ties will be broken according to the following steps:

Everything Else to Know for an Enjoyable and Successful Competition Season - continued

- When appropriate, the tie will be broken by re-averaging the dropped, low score with the original judge's scores to decide the winner.
- If a tie still exists, then the scores for each tied act will be compared with preference given to the act with the highest weighted score. See "How Acts Are Scored", p. 21.
- In categories not weighted, preference will be given to the act in this order; technique, professionalism, commitment, entertainment, Voicing, Characterization, Movement, and Overall Presentation value.

- If a tie still exists, then the scores for each tied act will be returned to the judges for a final decision.

- If the judges refuse, or cannot break the tie, the Qualifying Committee will break the tie.
- State Directors can make the final decision to break ties or award contestants tied.

Combining For Scoring
For determining placement, Talent Categories will not be combined unless there is a lower than expected act participation at an event.

Props

Props should enhance the act and serve a purpose
- Props are generally discouraged, however, they are allowed within reason.
- Oversized and cumbersome props are not acceptable and will not be allowed.
- Some competition facilities may not accept props and contestant must be willing to accept the decision of the facility manager and must adapt act accordingly. No exceptions.
- Electricity – Only one 120V AC outlet will be provided to operate props. Extension cords will not be provided.

Props: Unacceptable

- In the interest of safety, fire, smoke or fog generators, any glass picture frames, glass water globes or other glass products, confetti dispensers, hay, glitter, or any material or prop which is ignited, projected toward the audience or any person backstage, or used in such a way which can potentially cause harm or damage is prohibited.
- Animals may not be used in this competition, except for certified animals assisting contestants with disability. Contestants wanting to use a prop, which may be questionable, must obtain prior written approval from the State Directors.

Person As Prop
- If anyone is used as a static prop, that person will be counted as a contestant and effect the Entities Division and Age Category. Thus, that person will be expected to pay the appropriate entry and membership fee. As a general rule, if any part of the person can be seen from the audience, he / she is a contestant.

Everything Else to Know for an Enjoyable and Successful Competition Season - continued

Adults, Parents, Louisiana Kids, Inc. Alumni
- Those who would not meet the age requirements to compete in Louisiana Kids, Inc. may not be used on stage during an act in any capacity.
- When previously approved by State Directors, adults may assist contestants off stage or in the wings when the act requires this to successfully execute itself.
- The adult must not be seen by the judges.

Props Placement & Pick up
- Each act will be responsible for bringing their props or instruments backstage to the Stage Manager and then removing them.

- It is recommended you have someone responsible to handle your props or instruments, as Louisiana Kids, Inc. is not responsible for lost, stolen, damaged, or misplaced props or instruments.
- Tech crews will place all props or instruments on or off the performance stage.
- Props and instruments may be taken or picked up backstage during scheduled breaks only, which occur about once every two hours.
- Props not picked up will become donated property to Louisiana Kids, Inc.

Protests

Registered Participating Studios and Act Representatives may file a Protest.

- Signed written protests must be on an Official Protest Form obtained from the Director of Competition. The fee to place a protest is $25.00 for each protest and is non-refundable.
- In making the protest, please give specific information that would substantiate your position, or your protest will not be considered.
- The Protester has the burden of proof.
- All contestant-related Protests must be made to the Event Coordinator within 20 minutes after the act in question has been performed or there will be no basis for the Protest.
- In the case of perceived rule violations by event staff members, Protests are to be given to the Stage Manager within 20 minutes of the violation or there will be no basis for the Protest.
- No other subsequent protests will be considered.
- The Qualifying Committee makes Protest determinations.

Confidentiality of Entry Information

Entry information is considered confidential and will only be seen by appropriate members of our staff, the Act Representative, or Act Designee. Contestants will not have access to this information.

Rules: Miscellaneous Other

Can I Repeat a Winning Act next year?

If an entity wins a Sub Talent or Grand Champion Talent Category with an act, that entity may not enter that act in a Louisiana Kids, Inc. competition for a period of two competition years.

Everything Else to Know for an Enjoyable and Successful Competition Season - continued

Emergency Arrival Situations

- Circumstances beyond the control of the contestant may cause the act to arrive late making it necessary for the act to be re-sequenced or rescheduled to another event.
- In this case, the State Director must be notified by the Act Representative prior to the scheduled performance time and a decision will be made depending on circumstances.
- Special consideration may be made for high school seniors involved in senior activities at the time of the competition. Director of Competition must be notified in advance of scheduling challenges by the senior competitor.

Loophole Interpretation

The decision of the State Directors or the appointed Event Coordinator is final on any rule or loophole interpretation, or on any unusual circumstance that might arise.

No State Boundaries
Any member of Louisiana Kids, Inc. may compete in any sanctioned Louisiana Kids, Inc. competition provided that specific event is not full. In the case of an event that is already considered "full", the Event Coordinator has the authority to determine whether or not an act may compete.

Rules: Miscellaneous Other – continued

Professionals
- Professionals may not compete in the Louisiana Kids, Inc. sequential competition.
- For our purposes, we consider a professional as a person who has signed a full-time contract working or has worked as a performer for an amusement park, live theatre, motion picture, radio or television company for most of the year (six months or more).
- If a contestant is working as a performer at these institutions or similar ones for summer, weekend or part-time employment, he or she is not considered a professional.
- However, professionals may participate in the Louisiana Kids, Inc. program by making public appearances giving special performances, or performing in shows or touring groups.

Videos & Cameras
Unless otherwise announced, the use of video, movie, or still cameras will not be permitted during any part of the competition. These professional services will be provided at reasonable prices. On occasion and by special permission, you may take videos and pictures during the Awards Ceremony.

Blocking
Blocking will only be allowed by pre-approval from the Event Coordinator. There will be a time limit on all blockings and no music or CD player will be allowed. This is not a practice time but only a blocking time.

Everything Else to Know for an Enjoyable and Successful Competition Season - continued

Score-sheets

- For all levels of competition, each act entity will receive a single score-sheet from each judge based on a scale of 1 to 50.
- The scores from each judge will then be added together and averaged to determine the act's score in the given segment of the competition.
- If four or more judges are present at the competition, the lowest score may be dropped before the scores from each judge are added together and averaged.
- If there are three or less judges, no scores will be dropped.

Score-sheet Pick-Up

- Each act will be given a summary page attached to all the judges' score-sheets and it will include any penalties assessed.
- The score-sheets from each event may be picked up at the pre-determined location after the Awards Ceremony. None will be mailed.

Note: As of this writing, we do not publish all the scores of each event (such as the public presentation of scores in the Olympics for example). At some future time we may do so. We are happy to give you the standing of your act in specific categories when you mail us that request and include a self-addressed stamped return envelope.

Sequence

The Sequence of the Competition is printed in the Program Book.

- We will not make changes in the sequence as published. It is the burden of the competitor to request on the entry form (consideration will be given, but not guaranteed) if one act is preferred to be first due to extensive costume issues (heavy make-up, wig & costume issues, strenuousness of an act, etc.).
- The competition is presented as a show and is kept moving by emcees.
- Acts must appear in published sequence of competition.
- Seniors will receive special consideration due to senior activities.

Stage Manager

Stage Manager is directly responsible for the smooth operation of the backstage area, the show, and the Green Room (when applicable) to include contestant control, handling and placement of props, the piano / keyboard, microphones, contestant first aid, maintaining stage decorations, lighting, curtains, floor, and seeing that all instructions on the Tech Sheet are followed.

Everything Else to Know for an Enjoyable and Successful Competition Season - continued

Participating Studios

Participating Studios receive many benefits for their participation.

The Participating Studio must have at least 10 acts competing at each level of competition. The Studio is responsible for completing all entry forms, summary form and recap and sending them with one form of payment to the State office in Westwego, Louisiana, by the posted entry deadline date for each event. For a studios involvement, there are several financial benefits and recognitions offered. All questions related to the qualifications may be directed to the Executive Director at 1-504-341-2196. A Participating Studio Packet will be mailed to you promptly.

Talent Categories

There are 34 Talent Categories

Listed in Alphabetical Order

- Vocal Blues
- Vocal Character
- Vocal Classical
- Vocal Combination
- Vocal Country
- Vocal Gospel
- Vocal Musical Theater
- Vocal National Anthem
- Vocal Patriotic
- Vocal Popular
- Vocal Serious
- Dance Ballet / Lyrical
- Dance Baton
- Dance Character
- Dance Cheerleading
- Dance Clogging
- Dance Combination
- Dance Contemporary
- Dance Folkloric
- Dance Funk/Hip Hop
- Dance Jazz
- Dance Other
- Dance Tap
- General Variety Instrumental
- General Variety Other
- General Variety Piano / Keyboard
- Acting Monologue Dramatic
- Acting Monologue Comedic
- Acting Skit Dramatic
- Acting Skit Comedic
- Acting Narrative Reading
- Acting Poetic Reading
- Acting Public Speaking
- Acting Stand Up Comedy

Everything Else to Know for an Enjoyable and Successful Competition Season - continued

Tech Sheets

All Act Representatives must submit a separate Tech-Sheet for each level of competition, which will be provided at Check-In. Participating Studios only may request these in advance of the competition event.

The Tech Sheet should show:

- Which side of the stage the act will enter.
- Where the act will begin and finish.
- How and where props need to be placed on stage.
- What type of microphone is to be used.
- When to start the accompaniment CD-R / MP3's.

The Tech Sheet Should Show: - continued

- Tech crews are not responsible if this information is incorrectly or illegibly written or omitted on the Tech-Sheet.
- All acts in all Talent Categories are limited to 3 minutes and 15 seconds, with a set-up and tear down time of 1 minute.
- All Production Groups (10 or more members) have a maximum of 5 minutes, with a set-up and tear down time of 2 minutes.
- One point will be deducted from your average score for every 15 seconds, or a portion of, over these time limits.
- Set-up time restrictions may prevent bands from competing "contact Executive Director".

Time Limits and Overtime - continued

- There will be a Timekeeper at every competition. Overtime penalties can be assessed during the first level of competition within the state, "Decision of Executive Director" however the act will be alerted to the violation. If the overtime problem is not corrected in future subsequent levels, a penalty will be assessed.

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