

Miss Rodeo Mississippi Foundation

presents the



Official Pageant Rules and Regulations

Miss Division (17-20)

Junior Miss Division (13-16)

Princess Division (9-12)

Sweetheart Division (4-8)

Important info!! Read thoroughly!!

Miss Rodeo Mississippi Foundation

www.missrodeomississippi.com ~ missrodeomississippi@gmail.com

Preamble

It is the mission of the Miss Rodeo Mississippi Foundation (MRMF) to provide vision and leadership to Miss Dixie National, enabling her to represent the Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo and promote our western heritage. MRMF establishes that the rules and regulations in this booklet shall be applicable to all title-and sub-title holders under contract to MRMF, and all approved contestants competing for the title of Miss Dixie National. MRMF reserves the right to amend its rules and guidelines by action of the Board of Directors.

Contestant Eligibility for the Miss Dixie National Pageant

Each contestant in the Dixie National Pageant shall on the date of the competition and final selection of Miss Dixie National titleholders:

- Shall be a female as established by the gender at birth as shown on an official copy of her Certificate of Birth. Shall supply MRM Foundation with one official copy of her Certificate of Birth. Should consider herself a female and not have ever had her gender reclassified on her birth certificate. Must use the pronouns she/her.
- Must meet the following age requirements:
 - Miss Division: Must be at least 17 years of age and not older than 20 years of age by January 1, 2024.
 - Junior Miss Division: Must be at least 13 years of age and not older than 16 years of age by January 1, 2024.
 - Princess Division: Must be at least 9 years of age and not older than 12 years of age by January 1, 2024.
 - Sweetheart Division: Must be at least 4 years of age and not older than 8 years of age by January 1, 2024.
- Must be enrolled in primary school, secondary school, or college as according to contestant's age.
- Shall not have ever been married and/or pregnant or the legal guardian of a dependent. Shall not be cohabitating or live as a part of a domestic partnership living arrangement or share living facilities with any person in a romantic relationship, or with a member of the opposite sex outside the degrees of consanguinity as established by law. Normal college dormitory/sorority living arrangements are specifically accepted from this rule.
- Must not have taken any actions, which in the good faith determination of the Miss Rodeo Mississippi Foundation (MRMF), will now or in the future is likely to cause harm or damage to the goodwill or reputation of MRMF. This includes the improper use of social media to include but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, or any other forms thereof. This also includes but is not limited to inappropriate language, pictures, videos, etc.
- Contestants may not be engaged to be married at the time of application and pageant competition nor throughout the year of reign if chosen as a Miss Dixie National titleholder.
- Not under any contractual obligations that would interfere with her ability to participate in the state pageant and/or year as Miss Dixie National.
- May not have been a former Dixie National titleholder in the division she is competing in.
- Shall abide by all rules and regulations of MRMF including Miss Dixie National pageant contestant rules, general rules, written expectations, official communications and documents, and verbal

direction from the competent authority (National Director, Judges, and Board of Directors). Concerns shall respectfully be brought to the attention of the involved Director(s), the National Director, Pageant Official or the President in a timely manner.

- Shall have executed and presented all required documents, consents, waivers, contracts and/or agreements presented as conditions or precedents to pageant competition, title, or contracted party prior to the receipt of prizes, awards, scholarships, monies, or participation in approved activities.
- Shall abide by the laws of the jurisdiction(s) she is in. Shall have never been convicted of a felony crime (or equivalent, while a juvenile). Shall not have pending criminal charges (other than minor traffic violations, with the exception of DUI, Aggravated DUI, and Reckless Driving) or have adjudicated criminal sentences pending against her. Shall disclose to the Board by provided contestant affidavit her criminal history and pending sentences other than minor traffic violations.

Any contestant not meeting the qualifications set forth above shall be denied the right to compete in the Miss Dixie National Pageant.

Titleholder Duties

Miss, Junior Miss, and Princess Divisions

- Dixie National titleholders are spokeswomen for the Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo.
- Must attend all Dixie National Rodeo events set forth by the MRMF. Must plan to attend EVERY performance of the Dixie National Rodeo, Parade, School/Sponsor/Scheduled Visits, and any other event set forth by the MRMF board.
- Must be available for television and radio interviews one week prior to opening night and during the rodeo.
- Must provide her own horse for each event a horse is needed.
- Must provide her own autograph sheets and be willing to sign autographs prior to, during, and after each rodeo performance. Must include sponsor logos on her autograph sheets (either front or back) as designated by the MRMF board. Autograph sheets must be approved by the MRMF board before printing.
- Must be in attendance at the following year's pageant, in order to crown her successor.
- If titleholder chooses to order chaps, at her own expense, she must order them through Arrowhead Now in Oklahoma.

Sweetheart Division

This is a title only event. ALL contestants will be crowned Miss Dixie National Sweetheart.

- This title affords no Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo rights. Winners will not be allowed to participate in any events (unless arranged or approved by the MRMF Board).

Pageant Disqualifications and Deductions

At the discretion of the Miss Rodeo Mississippi Foundation Board of Directors and Miss Dixie National Pageant Judges, contestants **WILL** be disqualified for the following infractions:

- Being late to an event
- Poor sportsmanship
- Using foul language
- Animal cruelty
- Being coached during horsemanship (Miss and Junior Divisions)
- Someone warming up the horsemanship horse other than the contestant (Miss and Junior Divisions)
- Any attempt to threaten, bribe, influence, harass, or coerce a judge, another contestant, titleholders, or pageant committee member by a contestant or a contestant's family member before, during, or after the event.

The MRMF reserves the right to deny any applications from potential contestants that have committed any of these infractions during (or in the case of the last bullet point also after) a previous MRMF produced pageant.

At the discretion of the Miss Dixie National Pageant Judges, contestants **MAY** have their score reduced for a judged portion of the pageant for the following infractions:

- Breaking the required dress code
- Breaking the horsemanship tack requirements (Miss and Junior Miss Divisions)

Pageant Authority and Sponsors

- The pageant is an annual event. The Miss Rodeo Mississippi Foundation conducts the actual competition and arranges the judges, awards, and entries.
- The Miss Rodeo Mississippi Foundation has complete authority over the pageant competition and any activities of the contestants during the competition.
- All problems or complaints are to be referred within an hour of occurrence to the Miss Rodeo Mississippi Foundation. The proper procedure for filing a grievance is to put the complaint in writing and submit to the Miss Rodeo Mississippi Board of Directors, along with a \$100 cash grievance fee, to Mrs. Deborah Tucker, Miss Rodeo Mississippi Grievance Official, for further review.

Miss Dixie National Pageant Grievance Committee

A grievance as defined by the dictionary is:

1. A cause of distress giving reason for complaint.
2. An actual or supposed circumstance regarded as just cause for protest.
3. A complaint or protestation based on such a circumstance.
4. Indignation or resentment stemming from a feeling of being wronged.

Committee:

- The committee will be comprised of five (5) members from the Miss Rodeo Mississippi Foundation board, one being the designated Chairman for the Grievance Committee (Mrs.

Deborah Tucker). The President of MRM Foundation (Mrs. Corrine Rodriguez) will appoint these members. If committee members are absent, the President shall appoint an alternate for each vacant position. The Chairman of the Grievance Committee will be the point of the contact and spokesperson for the committee.

- **The Chairman of the Grievance Committee will not have a vote unless there is a tie.**
 - Any member of the Board of Miss Rodeo Mississippi Foundation who personally observes any misconduct or violation of Pageant Rules or the Contestant Code of Conduct contract shall report same to the Grievance Committee. Such misconduct or infraction must be reported by the member of the Board who observed the infraction or misconduct and cannot be based on hearsay or remarks from other individuals or contestants. Such reported infractions or misconduct shall be handled in the same manner as a grievance filed by a contestant.
 - A grievance **CANNOT** be filed based on the outcome of the pageant.
 - **Actions:** When the Grievance Committee Chairman receives a grievance, she must convene the Grievance Committee. The grievance committee will review the grievance. Once the Grievance committee reviews the grievance it will make a decision whether to act upon, reject, or disregard the grievance. All decisions are binding on all parties to the grievance.
- 1. The Committee and the complaining contestant will not discuss the grievance with anyone, not parents, other contestants, or judges.
- 2. The committee must make a decision based on facts and be certain, without a doubt, that the accused was intentionally involved in misconduct or misrepresented oneself or there was an infraction of a rule.
- 3. Committee, in turn, will review the grievance to determine if the complaint is substantiated. If it is determined to be a valid grievance, a meeting of the Grievance Committee and Judges will be convened. If it is determined the grievance has not substantiated the proceedings shall cease.
- 4. Committee and Pageant Judges will interview the person against whom the charge is being filed and the person filing the grievance. Such interview shall be held separately and privately. Either of the individuals shall have the option to decline the private interview, in which case the Grievance Committee and Pageant Judge shall make a decision based on the facts as presented. The Grievance Committee and Pageant Judges shall then dismiss the contestants and shall review the complaint.
- 5. The Grievance Committee and Pageant Judges must come to majority decision. Consequences shall be set as follows:
 - No Penalty.
 - Point deductions as determined by members of the Grievance committee and pageant Judges.
 - Disqualifications.

The pageant will continue as scheduled until decisions have been made.

Miss Dixie National Pageant Judging Guidelines

Judges

- A panel of at least three judges will judge all categories of the Pageant. All scores will be totaled for each contestant each time they are judged.
- Judges are selected for their expertise in all fields of the competition-horsemanship, personality and appearance, etc.... They should all have an awareness of correct western dress, they should be knowledgeable about the sport of professional rodeo, and they should be experienced western-type horsemen or horsewomen who are accustomed to judging horse event.
- The judges have been instructed as to the type of young woman the “Miss Dixie National” contest seeks, exemplifying: sincerity, integrity, attractiveness, intelligence, high moral standards, maturity, public speaking, horsemanship ability, and knowledge of professional rodeo, current events, and horse science.

Judged Events

1. **Horsemanship (Miss and Junior Miss divisions only)** Each contestant **will provide her own horse**, to be ridden in each of the two go-rounds of horsemanship competition. See Horsemanship section for information.
2. **Interviews-** Each contestant will be individually interviewed privately by the judges (Miss, Junior Miss, and Princess divisions). Questions asked will test the contestant’s knowledge of the pageant, professional rodeo, equine science, horsemanship, current affairs, and general questions based upon her pageant application. Sweetheart division contestants will participate in a group interview.
3. **Extemporaneous Questions-** An extemporaneous question will be asked of each contestant in the Miss, Junior Miss, and Princess divisions during the Style Show. Questions may relate to the sport of professional rodeo and/or current events. Sweetheart contestants will be asked one of the following questions on stage:
 - a. What is your horse’s name? Tell us about him/her.
 - b. Why do you like the sport of rodeo?
 - c. What is your favorite thing about the Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo?
4. **Modeling-** Contestants will participate in the Style Show and Miss, Junior Miss, and Princess contestants should be prepared to provide a short introduction on stage. Sweetheart contestants will not be asked to do a solo introduction.
5. **Photogenic (Miss, Junior Miss, and Princess divisions only)** The judges will score the required digital colored vertical, head and shoulder digital photograph submitted by each contestant, to determine the photogenic winner. The contestant should be wearing a hat and western attire in the submitted photo.
6. **Stage presentation** – You will be introducing yourself, answering an impromptu question, and modeling. You will be judged on your personality, projection, ability to have fun, and how to handle yourself.

Note about **Most Ads Sold** – The Miss Rodeo Mississippi Foundation requires that each

contestant sell a minimum \$50 in ads for the Miss Dixie National Pageant official program book. The contestant who sells the most ads ranked by dollar amount will receive an award. Please refer to the program ad sheet for more information about cost, size, and requirements.

Winners

- After all the judged events are completed and scores are tabulated, the category winners will be announced. The winners in each category are determined by the contestant receiving the highest score, in that particular category.
- The contestant receiving the highest grand total for the competition shall be crowned the winner of her division. The contestant receiving the second highest grand total shall be first runner-up. That contestant receiving the third highest grand total shall be second runner-up.
- Ties for category winners, i.e., Appearance, Personality, Horsemanship, will be broken by referring back to Judge #1. Judge #1's score will break the tie. If a tie still remains, Judge #2's score will be used...and so on until the tie is broken. Ties resulting in Photogenic will be broken by using the same method as the category winners. A tie for the division winner will be broken by the horsemanship scores, i.e., the contestant with the highest score in horsemanship will receive the higher ranking. If a tiebreaker is still needed, Judge #1's score will be used.
- The Judges' decision is final.

Attire Guidelines for 2024 Pageant

Horsemanship:

- **MISS AND JUNIOR MISS DIVISIONS**
 - Dress for horsemanship, is a **DENIM WRANGLER** brand pant product; button down western style plain **WHITE** shirt with long sleeves with shirt tail tucked in. **NO VESTS and/or JACKETS.** **NO** embellishments should be added to shirt or jeans. Hat, boots, and a belt (any color) are required. Gloves, scarves/wild rags, and chaps are not allowed. All riding attire should be neat and fit properly.

Interview:

- **MISS AND JUNIOR MISS DIVISIONS**
 - Same outfit as Horsemanship
- **PRINCESS AND SWEETHEART DIVISIONS**
 - Same outfit as Style Show

Style Show and Coronation:

- **ALL DIVISIONS**
 - Only one outfit and it should be "Grand Entry Attire" (meaning what a titleholder would wear when introduced in the arena on horseback). Must be a flashy, grand entry style top, **WRANGLER** brand jean product, boots, belt, and cowboy hat. Vests and embellishments are permitted. **NO DRESSES, SKIRTS, and/or JACKETS.**

Check-In and Orientation:

- **MISS AND JUNIOR MISS DIVISIONS**
 - Same outfit as Horsemanship
- **PRINCESS AND SWEETHEART DIVISIONS**
 - Same outfit as Style Show

Note: During the pageant, if you wear a pant product it must be a **WRANGLER** brand pant product. We also encourage the use of other Miss Rodeo America sponsors when purchasing items.

Horsemanship

(Miss and Junior Miss Divisions Only)

- There will be two rounds of horsemanship. Round one will consist of a horsemanship pattern (diagram below). Round two will consist of a queen's run and a brief horsemanship interview with the judges.
- Miss and Junior Miss division contestants must provide their own horse, feed, and equipment for the Miss Dixie National pageant. Time is limited; therefore, we encourage parents and/or sponsors to feed, water, clean stalls, and bathe your horse. **ONLY THE CONTESTANT MAY WARM UP THE HORSE.** *Failure to abide by this rule will result in the disqualification of the contestant.*
- All horses entering the Mississippi State Fair Grounds are required to have current health papers and a negative Coggins test.
- In the event that a contestant's horse becomes ill, another horse may be substituted at the discretion of the Miss Rodeo Mississippi Foundation. The substitute horse may not necessarily belong to the contestant involved.
- Required Tack:
 - Western Tack
 - Split Reins (no barrel racing reins)
- Optional Equipment:
 - Tie- Down
 - Bell Boots/Split Boots/Polo Wraps
 - Spurs
- Per the Miss Rodeo America Rulebook, horsemanship is judged on the contestant's overall horsemanship ability. This includes, "control of mount; the way any situation which may occur is handled; balance; positions of hands, feet, and seat; mounting and dismounting" as well as a contestant's execution of the designated horsemanship pattern.

Round 1:

Please see diagram on next page

1. Do extended jog (trot) alongside of arena, then to center
2. Begin lope at center of arena and lope left circle on left lead
3. Change leads at center of arena and lope right circle on right lead
4. Change leads and continue loping around end of arena
5. Once on the straight, increase speed and continue around end of arena

6. Stop and back

7. The Miss Rodeo Mississippi Foundation Board of Directors reserve the right to make alterations and/or additions to this pattern

Round 2:

- Each contestant will be given the opportunity to make a queen's run. The queen's run begins as the contestant enters the arena. Contestants will be judged on their speed, control, form, personality, wave, and overall horsemanship ability.
- Once complete, the contest must stop at the gate, turn and ride over to the judges, dismount, and participate in a short horsemanship interview. Questions are at the judges' discretion.
- Miss Dixie National contestants will remount and walk out of the arena after being dismissed by the judges.
- Junior Miss Dixie National contestants will lead their horse out of the arena on foot after being dismissed by the judges.
- The Miss Rodeo Mississippi Foundation Board of Directors reserves the right to make alterations and/or additions to these instructions.

Miss Dixie National Pageant Information

- The contestant application form, waivers, photogenic photo, program ad(s), and all other required information must be received by 11:59pm on November 15, 2023 via email to missrodeomississippi@gmail.com. Upon receipt of the completed application from each contestant, the applicant will then receive an invoice within three business days to the email she provided on her application for all pageant fees and program ad(s). Contestants may pay the invoice with credit or debit card. Invoices must be paid within seven days of receipt of invoice. After payment is received, additional pertinent information regarding the state pageant competition, including a detailed pageant schedule, will be emailed to the contestant. Entry fees per division are as follows:
 - a. Miss Dixie National (17-20) **\$75.00**
 - b. Junior Miss Dixie National (13-16) **\$75.00**
 - c. Miss Dixie National Princess (9-12) **\$60.00**
 - d. Miss Dixie National Sweetheart (4-8) **\$50.00**

- The 2024 Miss Dixie National pageant will be held January 13, 2024, at the Mississippi State Fairgrounds, Jackson, MS. Miss Division and Junior Miss Division contestants must provide their own horse for the pageant. Horses must have current negative Coggins test and health papers to enter the Fairgrounds Stalls will be available for \$15.00 per day and RV/Trailer hookups for \$20.00 per day. These fees will need to be paid at the time you check in at the pageant. Shavings will not be available, therefore; you will need to bring your own.

- Each contestant in the Miss Dixie National pageant is required to sell a minimum of \$50 in ads for the Miss Dixie National pageant program. These ads can be well wishes for contestants or advertisements from businesses and/or individuals. All half page and full-page ads will include contestant's photo upon request. Programs will be available for purchase at the Miss Dixie National Pageant. An award will be presented for the most ads sold.

- As required by the Miss Rodeo Mississippi Foundation, each application must be accompanied by proof of birth (photocopy birth certificate).

Accompanying this application, (1) color, vertical 8 x 10, head and shoulder digital photograph in full western attire for photogenic judging of herself, and does release all right, claim, title and/or interest therein together with any and all information provided herein, and/or hereafter otherwise acquired by the above, regarding the undersigned, for use in matters of public relations, advertising and/or promoting the Miss Dixie National Pageant both now and in the future. **SWEETHEART DIVISION IS NOT REQUIRED TO SEND A PHOTO.**

2024 Miss Dixie National Pageant Program Ad Form

One form should be filled out for each ad sold
All ads are black and white

Business/Individual: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Contact Name: _____

Checkmark Size of Ad:

Full Page (\$100.00) **Half Page** (\$50.00) **1/4 Page** (\$35.00) **1/8 Page** (\$25.00)

Inside Back Cover (\$200.00) *if available* email missrodeomississippi@gmail.com to verify

Outside Back Cover (\$350.00) *if available* email missrodeomississippi@gmail.com to verify

AMOUNT DUE:

Description of Ad or Layout request:

- Use one copy of this form for each ad that you sell.
- Layouts already designed (JPEG or PDF format) can be emailed to missrodeomississippi@gmail.com
- Our graphic designer will design the ad, unless noted otherwise.