

TALENT SHOW RULES

DIVISIONS: Preteen: age 12 and under only, Teen: ages 13 – 18 only and Open: any contestant – regardless of age.

ACCOMPANIMENT: The fair will provide a CD player. *Alternatively, you may also bring a cell phone or iPod for accompaniment recordings for the Polk County fair.* Vocalists may use recorded accompaniment, provided it contains instrumental accompaniment only. Absolutely no back-up vocals are allowed on vocal performance accompaniment. The contestant is responsible for the quality and reliability of any CD/phone/iPod used. The fair will also provide a piano, if desired. **Should you win and participate in the state fair, cell phone or iPod accompaniment recordings are not allowed at the state fair.*

TIME LIMIT: The time limit is four minutes and is strictly enforced. Judges will be told to deduct from final scores for those that go over the limit.

JUDGING: Judges will assess talent based on stage presence (use of stage/microphone, eye contact, etc.), quality of performance (talent), choice of selection (did the selection fit the contestant's ability to perform, was it appropriate for the performer, venue, audience), and entertainment value (was the audience entertained, did they enjoy the act, etc.). Judges' decisions are final. Scores are not released to the contestants or the public, though a comment sheet can be provided after the fair to those who request one.

Please keep in mind that the Polk County Fair is a family fair. Participants are encouraged to choose an act that is age appropriate in regards to content and costuming. The Talent show Coordinator and/or the Polk County Fair Board reserves the right to stop any act that is deemed inappropriate.

CHECK-IN MEETING: All acts are required to check-in at the Fair Office 6:00 p.m. on Thursday. Contestants who are using a CD, cell phone or iPod will need to bring it with at that time. Please mark your CD with your name and the track number you need played directly ON the disk. Due to other activities, we will likely only have time for a quick sound check between the meeting and the show.

PRIZES: Winners in the Open Division, Teen Division, and Pre-Teen Division will each receive:

1st \$100.00

2nd \$75.00

3rd \$50.00

The winning act in each division will be eligible to represent Polk County at the Minnesota State Fair County Fair Talent Contest. Admission to the State Fair, transportation, meals, and lodging are the responsibilities of the winning act(s).

If you place in your category, please stay near the stage after the show to have your photo taken, receive your prize(s), and get information about the State Fair Competition.

SOUND SYSTEM: All contestants are required to use the sound system provided; lapel and headset microphones will not be allowed. A sound technician will be present throughout the show. The contestant must provide all instruments and amplifiers, if needed.

STAGE: Contestants will perform on the HANSON FREE STAGE (near the Fair Office). Contestants are encouraged to come in costume, since changing facilities are limited.

ADMISSION/PARKING: All contestants are responsible for their own parking fees, though there is no admission fee to the fair. For those transporting items, you may drive up near the stage to unload, but are asked to park your vehicle(s) in the standard lots upon the completion of your unloading process. There is no admission cost for family and friends to watch the Talent Show.

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