



## OFFICAL GUIDELINES

American Kids, Inc.  
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### We have 3 levels of Competition:

- Local Competition – There are many Local Competitions. Locals are the first level of competition and are held late winter through early spring.
- State Competition – There may be one or more State Competitions held within a given state. It is the highest in-state level and may include members from various states. They can be a one to two day event, depending on the number of acts participating.
- National Finals – This is generally a five day event every July and traditionally is held in Branson, Missouri. This event is open to all contestants who have advanced from an American Kids State Event.

### We have 7 Talent Categories:

<u>Categories</u>	
<u>Country Vocal</u>	<u>All Styles</u>
<u>Dance</u>	<u>All Styles</u>
<u>Gospel Vocal</u>	<u>All Styles</u>
<u>Musical Theatre</u>	<u>Formerly Musical Theatre &amp; Character were separate</u>
<u>Pop Vocal</u>	<u>All Styles</u>
<u>Serious/Classical</u>	<u>Formerly Serious &amp; Classical were separate</u>
<u>Specialty Act</u>	<u>Formerly known as General Variety</u>
	<u>Note: Patriotic is put in the category of the song style</u>

## 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 Locals, State, and National Finals events. Contestants, Studio Affiliates (see page 27) and all other paid members such as Adult, Alumni, & 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 follows the Awards Ceremony.
- Awards Ceremony - Unless held in a large open space such as a mall, there will be admission fees to all Awards Ceremonies. Contestants, Studio Affiliates (see page 27) and all other paid members such as Adult, Alumni, & Sibling Members, will be admitted free by presenting their Membership Card.

## Local Competition

*Hereafter may be referred to as Local(s)*

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

Locals begin with Check-In (see “Event Check-In”, page 19) and mandatory contestant/parent group meeting. The entire competition family meets for an American Kids 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.

Subsequently, parents are dismissed and the required closed rehearsal begins (for competitors only). Buddies are assigned. The traditional ‘Buddy Concept’ is one of the activities, which set American Kids apart from other competitions. In American Kids, Buddies are helpers for each other’s safety and well-being. Buddy circles and getting acquainted games start the event, and have historically begun lasting friendships. The Buddy session transitions into a discussion of the organization's theme song, We Can Change the World. This begins the teaching time where all contestants learn the opening production number, “We Can Change the World”. Competitors are familiarized with the stage/dressing rooms, any safety issues observed in the facility as well as performing etiquette.

Members are dismissed to arriving parents to prepare for the all afternoon/evening competition. The opening production number has proven to be a favored part of the American Kids competition and is greeted with surprise and delight. These kinds of family oriented activities separate American Kids from being "just another competition."

A team of volunteers manage each Local beginning with Check-In to the giving of prizes (a.k.a. the Awards Ceremony) and the Cast Party. Services available at Locals 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 American Kids. 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 18.

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

This 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 Locals to State Finals. 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. These are at a selected table generally located 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 given to every contestant at Check-In prior to knowing if the contestant's act(s) will advance or not.

## 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.

In states where State is the first level of competition (i.e. there are no Locals), then there will be a mandatory contestant/parent group meeting following Check-In. The entire competition family meets for an American Kids 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 of 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 American Kids family. 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 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 judges. A minimum of 75% up to a maximum of 85% of all acts will advance to the National Finals event. 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 given to every contestant at Check-In prior to knowing if the contestant's act(s) will advance or not.

## 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 talent gifts for each other and before a team of nationally recognized performance professionals. This has been traditionally held in Branson, Missouri, which is a family entertainment capital.

Scoring of the competition is identical to Locals 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 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.

Following the Awards Ceremony is the American Kids Allstar Show where the top (maximum of 25) acts will compete for the title of "Performer of the Year" and \$1,000.00 cash prize. A new panel of judges in the music business will determine the winner based on the same scoring procedure as in past competitions.

There will be a Cast Party where positive empowering music and games display the support shown from the "buddies" idea planted at the Locals and State. 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 American Kids staff.
- Advancing/Advancement: An Act qualifying to advance between sequential levels of Competition.
- Age Category: The category you compete in.
- Allstar Show: The top 25 acts from the National Finals Competition consisting of each of the seven categories. A maximum of two (2) acts by one performer is allowed in the Allstar Show.
- Commitment: Judges' 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: Judges' 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: Judges' term for "overall stage presentation, including entering, exiting and handling on-stage challenges".
- Qualifying Committee: Consists of Director of National Programs, the Event Coordinator, the Stage Manager and an Executive Board member if available.
- Re-Do Acts: Entering an act for the second time at the same level within a year's competition season. See p. 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: Judges' 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 & Successful Competition Season

### Accompaniment CD's & Point Deduction

*Accompaniment must be on a high quality Audio Recordable Compact Disc.*

- They must be a high quality Audio Recordable Accompaniment CD without static or any unnecessary noise.
- A quality CD, like a costume will add professionalism to an act.
- A poor quality CD will detract from the performance.
- If an accompaniment CD is NOT on the above-stated CD format, there is a possibility that the Sound System will NOT be able to play it.
- All CD's must have no other music or song except the one to accompany your act (each act on separate CD).
- Each CD is to have printed on it: Name of contestant and act; name of music.
- It is the responsibility of the Act Representative to turn in accompaniment track at the Event Check-in.
- One point may be deducted from the final averaged score if the wrong accompaniment CD for the act is turned in and as a result, played.
- Your act must be within the time limits to avoid penalty point deductions. See "Time Limits", page 29.
- It is the responsibility of the Act Representative to insure the accompaniment CD 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*

- A solo vocal act 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 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 judge whether or not the act was assisted by the vocals on any track and will not be open for appeal.

### Act Representatives:

- The Act Representative is the sole point of contact between the Director of National Programs 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 is 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. 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 National Programs 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 National Programs 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 be in.*

- 5 & under
- 6 to 8
- 9 to 11
- 12 to 14
- 15 thru High School Senior

*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 National Programs should a question arise.*

## 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 (when applicable) who will immediately report to the Director of National Programs.
- The Qualifying Committee makes appeals 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. Nationals Scholarships will be announced. Families and guests are encouraged to attend.

## 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 being worn by females. Earrings are not to be worn by male performers during any American Kids show productions. Piercings may be put back in once a show has concluded.

## 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 20, for circumstances that could result in disqualification.

## Divisions

*There are 2 Divisions which represent the number of members in an Act Entity.*

- A solo is an individual who performs alone.

A group is two or more individuals who perform together. A person used as a prop, is counted as contestant and effects the acts’ Age Category.

## 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

	COMMITMENT NT	ENTERTAINMENT MENT	TECHNIQUE E	PROFESSIONALISM LSM
Country Vocal	20%	40%	20%	20%
Dance - All	25%	25%	25%	25%
Gospel Vocal	40%	20%	20%	20%
Musical Theatre Vocal	40%	20%	20%	20%
Popular Vocal	20%	40%	20%	20%
Serious/Classical Vocal	20%	20%	40%	20%
Specialty Acts	25%	25%	25%	25%

## 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 & 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 advancements.

### *Judge's Decisions*

The decisions of the judges' officials are final. Except where noted in these rules, the Director of National Programs cannot overrule their decision.

## Medallion Placement

Within the context of our sequential competitions medallions are given to every contestant based on their placement. The top 20% receive Gold with Honors, the next 30% receive Gold and the final 50% receive 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.

High score in each Age and Talent Category will receive a Red, White and Blue Medallion.

## 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, (limit is 3:15)
- Act Over set-up time limit.
- Failure to meet official CD requirements.
- Wrong accompaniment CD 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.

## Prizes - Cash Awards

*Cash Prizes are printed on the American Kids web site, [www.Americankids.com](http://www.Americankids.com).*

- Cash awards are given to winning acts that have achieved Gold or Gold w/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.
- 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.

## Prizes - Cash Awards - continued

- 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 American Kids Scholarship Fund. No cash awards, trophies or medallions will be mailed.

- With regards to the 7 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 6 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 American Kids Competition 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:
  - 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, and entertainment 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

## 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, confetti dispensers, 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 Director of National Programs.

### *Person As Prop*

- If anyone is used as a static prop, that person will be counted as 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.

### *Adults, Parents, American Kids Alumni*

- These who would not meet the age requirements to compete in American Kids may not be used on stage during an act in any capacity.

- When previously approved by Director of National Programs, 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 American Kids 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 American Kids, Inc.

#### *Videos & Cameras*

Unless otherwise announced, the use of video, movie, or still cameras will not 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.

## 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.

## 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

## Talent Categories

*There are 7 Talent Categories*

Listed in Alphabetical Order

- Country Vocal: all styles, traditional, new country, rock-a-billy, etc. It is weighted on Entertainment.
- Dance: all styles, ballet-lyrical, character, clog, jazz, tap, etc. It is a non-weighted category.
- Gospel Vocal: all styles, traditional, contemporary, southern, etc. It is weighted on Commitment.

- Musical Theatre Vocal : songs from Broadway, Off-Broadway or Movie (can dress “in character” or not) and Character Impersonations. It is weighted on Commitment.
- Pop Vocal: any song on the Top 40 Pop Charts from any decade. It is weighted on Entertainment.
- Serious/Classical Vocal : includes ballads, classical or opera. It is weighted on Technique.
- Specialty Act: Examples are acting, monologues, ventriloquism, stand up comedy, circus acts, juggling, trick roping, instrumental, gymnastics, acrobatics, baton, etc. Singing and dancing will only be allowed as a small non-specific judgeable portion of a Specialty Act. In other words, one who sings as part of a ventriloquism act will not be judged on the skill of the vocals, but rather on the skill of the ventriloquism technique. An actor who dances as part of their portrayal will not be judged on the dance skill, but rather on the acting ability. It is a non-weighted category.

## Time Limits & Overtime

- 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) must be a minimum 3 minutes 16 seconds and 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.
- There will be a Timekeeper at every competition. Overtime penalties will not be assessed during the first level of competition within the state, 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.