



GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR COMPETITION (PLEASE READ & SIGN) PERFORMANCE ENTRIES

QUALIFICATIONS

1. Performers must be at least 3 years old and a winner of an affiliated state who is a member of NACMAI.
2. Competition is open to amateur and professional performers who are not signed to a major label or make their living full time as a performer or songwriter in the music industry.
3. All performers under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

SCHEDULING

1. Performers may perform 2 songs per performance category or 8 minutes. At 7 minutes and 30 seconds, a warning will be issued by a NACMAI official. Points will be removed after 8 minutes, 8 seconds (see Penalty Section).
2. Once a category is entered, no changes can be made to entries. There will be no exceptions made to this rule due to our scheduling. All entries are final once the NACMAI office receives them.
3. All judges scores are final.

PENALTIES

1. Performers who exceed 8 minutes will be penalized as follows: 6 seconds - 2 points • 7 seconds - 3 points • 8 seconds - 4 points, etc.

CATEGORIES

1. Performers can enter under one style of music only with the exception of Instrumentalists and Band. Example: Performers enter the "Male Vocalists of the Year" must select one style to perform during their performance in competition, i.e. "New/Modern Country." If the performer also enters the "Male Entertainer of the Year" they must compete in the same style that they competed in as "Male Vocalists", i.e. "New/Modern Country."
2. Performers will not be allowed to compete against themselves. Example: Two performers entering as "Duo of the Year" may not team up with other performers and re-enter the same category or different category under assumed names.
3. For a DUO, both must be in Traditional Country or New Country to enter "Country" category or Traditional Gospel or New Gospel to enter a "Gospel" category. You may not have a DUO where one of the individuals is competing on their own in one category (e.g. country) and the other individual competing one their own in a different category (e.g. gospel) and enter as a DUO in one of these two categories or another completely different category. That becomes a "Cross Over." The same basic rules apply to a GROUP. If members of a group perform in an individual competition, they must compete in that same category for competition as a GROUP. That means an individual member of a Group may not compete in a Country category and then be a part of a Group that competes in a Gospel category or in any other category that is not Gospel. That becomes a "Cross Over."
4. "Instrumentalist of the Year" or "Instrumentalist DUO of the Year" may play songs from any of the categories but both songs must be from the same category.
5. "Country Dance Team/Clogger of the Year" and "Country Individual Dancer/Clogger of the year" means an individual or group performing a form of Country Dance (e.g. line dance, square dance, etc.) or clogging. It does not include interpretative dance, patriotic dance, any form of ballet or sign language dance.

BACKGROUND MUSIC

1. Performers may choose to either use bands to back them or background accompaniment CD's. Selection numbers of performance songs on CD's and their proper order of play must be neatly written or typed on the CD jewel case or placed inside the plastic wrap.
2. All performers who enter as an individual performer will be judged by ONLY THEIR INDIVIDUAL performance, not the performance of the band behind them; nor the way they interact with the band since the band is not really there in the eyes of the judges. The performer should refrain from interacting with the band when entering as a vocalist, duo or entertainer, and the performer should be able to stand alone as a vocalist or entertainer without interaction with the band. In order for the band to be judged, they must enter as a "Band". This keeps the playing field level for all contestants.
3. CD's must be properly cued. This means there should be no more than 2-4 seconds blank space in front of each song. Media not properly cued or in proper order will be returned to the performer for re-cueing, and the show will continue with the next performer.
4. Performers are required to place 2 songs for each performance category on one CD in order of performance.
5. There can be no individual backup vocals on stage for DUO's or GROUP's. This would effect the harmony required in both of these performance styles.
6. Performers are limited to three categories per contestant.

ACCEPTABLE MUSIC STYLES

1. Performers must perform either country, gospel or bluegrass whether the songs or original material (written by the artist or other songwriter) or commercially accepted songs with current or previous air play in those markets. Artists must use careful discretion on determining what style their music falls under or risk penalty. Artists who choose songs outside the market or outside any of these styles will be penalized.

NACMAI JUDGE QUALIFICATIONS

1. Judges must be not be a board member or officer of the NACMAI organization nor be a member of any NACMAI affiliate state organizations.
2. Judges are selected from a vast pool of qualified resources: radio & television personnel, songwriters, entertainment writers, music critics, record label reps., publishing reps., country, gospel or bluegrass fans, etc.
3. Judges who know contestants will be substituted during performance or song writing judging.
4. Several alternate judges will be selected to relieve other judges during competition.
5. Selected judges will meet with NACMAI personnel prior to judging for guidelines and to ask questions.

JUDGES' PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Quality of performance, originality of performance/arrangement, Star-quality performance, tightness of performance, Stage Presence, how well the material reflects country/gospel, Overall Rating of the Contestant.

JUDGES' SCORING SYSTEM

8 points - Outstanding • 5 points - Excellent • 4 points - Very Good • 3 points - Good • 2 points - Average • 1 point - Below Average.

AWARDS SHOW POLICY (READ VERY CAREFULLY)

It is mandatory that all contestants MUST attend the NACMAI Awards Show to receive their award. The NACMAI IS NOT RESPONSIBLE for lost, stolen or misplaced awards. The NACMAI is not responsible for mailing awards that have not been cleared in writing or verbally with submitted postage and handling fees through the NACMAI office. The only verbal permissions accepted will be: (1) personal illness, (2) death or illness in family-- all other requests must be in writing no less than 30 days prior to competition! Awards can be mailed at \$50 each (in the United States) and for \$ 75 each (International) fees charged for postage and handling fees) If a contestant fails to pick up their award or cannot attend the awards show, The NACMAI office will hold awards no more than 30 days following the competition. Those individuals who know they will be absent (except in cases of personal illness or other circumstances beyond their control) must submit a letter in writing via U.S. or International mail 30 days prior to the awards show for board approval. If the board approves their request for absenteeism during the awards show, they will automatically be given the U.S. mail option and will be notified by mail. The NACMAI cannot continue to offer the members of our affiliate states state-of-the-art industry exposure if they fail to be present during the awards show. These types of events are costly to the organization and must be recouped through ticket sales.

SONGWRITERS ENTRY GUIDELINES

1. Songwriter's may enter up to 2 entries per songwriting category.
2. Songwriter's may enter songs which have never won previous NACMAI competitions (1st - 4th place).
3. Songwriter's must have media properly cued. This should place the position of the tape at the very beginning of the song.
4. Songwriter's may submit single songs on CD's but must cue the CD to the starting position of the single song or indicate the selection number or location of the song on a CD.
5. Songwriter's must submit anonymous lyric sheets with their anonymously marked CD's for judging.
6. Songwriter's should fold an 8.5 X 11 (typing or note book paper) vertically in half, then fold or trifold the lyric sheet and place it around the outside of the tape. The tape and lyric sheet may be bound together by a rubber band.
7. Lyric sheets should be submitted with neatly written or typewritten lyrics (one copy only).
8. The songwriter's identity will be unknown to the judges, who will judge the submissions using a numerical code.
9. Songwriter's may submit as many styles as they wish for judging--they are excluded from the performer's single music style rule.
10. If a songwriter submits material co-written by other songwriters and the co-writers are to be credited during the awards show if designated as a winner, a \$35 entry fee is required for each co-writer.
11. Songwriter's must be present at the NACMAI Awards Show.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

I/We understand that the NACMAI Competition is a fair and ethical competition and will not hold the NACMAI liable for any of my/our misinterpretations of this contract. I/We also understand that all entry fees are non-refundable. I/We agree to abide by all rules and regulations on this contract and will be automatically disqualified should the NACMAI determine that I/we have breached the terms and conditions of this contract. I/We will not hold the NACMAI, its officers or its board of directors liable for injuries, theft nor personal losses. Furthermore, I/we agree to abide by the NACMAI Rules and Regulations for Competition and understand that I/we are accepting the terms of this agreement by affixing my/our signature. I, the signer of the contract, will act as agent and take full responsibility of my conduct or the conduct of the group, band, duo or child I represent. Performers and songwriters under the age of 18 are required to be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian during the competition and a parent or legal guardian signature is required on this form.

Name _____

Date _____

Name(s) of performer(s)/songwriter who the above parent/guardian or agent represents _____

Release and Hold Harmless Agreement

1. I, _____, the undersigned have read and understand, and freely and voluntarily enter into this Release and Hold Harmless Agreement with North America Country Music Association, Int'l (NACMAI), the NACMAI representatives, The Country Tonite Theater and their agents and employees, understanding that this Release and Hold Harmless Agreement is a waiver of any and all liability(ies).
2. I understand the potential dangers that could incur when bringing my personal instruments, CDs and other personal items that will be used in my competition with NACMAI.
3. I hold myself responsibility for the condition and whereabouts of all my personal instruments, CDs and other personal items at all times.
4. I understand and recognize and warrant that this Release and Hold Harmless Agreement, is being voluntarily and intentionally signed and agreed to, and that in signing this Release and Hold Agreement, I know and understand that this Release and Hold Harmless Agreement may further limit the liability NACMAI, the NACMAI representatives, The Country Tonite Theater and their agents and employees, to include any activity, whatsoever, personal injury (including death) and/or damage to property.

Participant's Name

Participant's Signature

Date

If the participant is under the age of 18, a guardian must sign this form.

Guardian's Name

Guardian's Signature

Date



IMPORTANT

**Vocal Duo, Vocal Group,
Instrumental Duo, Band,
Dance/Clogger Team or
Vocalist Being Backed by a Band**

1

Vocal or Instrumental Duo:
Names of Individuals Entered

2

**Vocal Group or
Dance/Clogger Team:**
Names of Individuals Entered
(If Choir, name of choir and numbered entered)

3

Band:
Name of Band Members Entered

4

Being Backed by Band:
Name of Band & Band Members



NACMAI

SCHOOL ABSENTEE

Please remit this form along with Entry Form & Fees

CONSENT FORM

a non-profit country
music association

This is to acknowledge that _____ has been given permission to miss classes for the week of March 12 thru March 18, 2018, to attend and take part in the NACMAI Country Music Week to be held at the Country Tonite Theatre in Pigeon Forge, TN.. He/she will be in music competition during this week as a winner representing his/her state in this international competition.

The school district recognizes that this is an event that allows the competitors to become more knowledgeable in their field of choice through educational seminars held during this week and the networking with others in the music industry. The NACMAI is a 501(c)(3) non-profit association registered with the IRS.

The NACMAI is not responsible for any misrepresentation by any individual requesting this form.

Name: (Print or Type legibly) _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

School Administration Position: _____