

## **WAIKATO COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION HOUSE RULES FOR AWARDS**

1. All Songs entered in these awards MUST be of Country origin. All songs will be vetted and if not suitable you will be notified before the awards.
2. All contestants must be a financial member of a New Zealand Country Music Association affiliated club at least three (3) months prior to these awards
3. **Section Ages**
  - JUNIOR – Under thirteen (13) years of age as at the 1<sup>st</sup> day of August of the current circuit year.
  - INTERMEDIATE – Thirteen (13) years but under eighteen (18) years as at the 1<sup>st</sup> day of August of the current circuit year.
  - SENIOR – Eighteen years (18) of age and over as at the 1<sup>st</sup> day of August of the current circuit year.
  - 40 PLUS – Forty (40) years of age and over as at the 1<sup>st</sup> day of August of the current circuit year. Not eligible for Entertainer of the Year
  - 60 PLUS – Sixty (60) years of age and over as at the 1<sup>st</sup> day of August of the current circuit year.
  - MERIT SECTION – Open to all ages. Entrant MUST be novice and have NEVER entered any other award prior. Merit entrants are NOT eligible to enter any other section.
4. **Section Rules**
  - Country Rock – Song can be of any age BUT must have an “upbeat” tempo. No slow songs permitted.
  - Gospel – Song must have a “Christian” theme. NOT a hymn
  - Western – Song must have a “Western” theme, e.g. Cowboys, rodeos, the prairie.
5. All entry fees must accompany the official entry form. There will be NO refunds, please DO NOT send cash.
6. You may only enter once per category
7. Contestants are restricted to their respective age groups.
8. Contestants must be amateur defined, and not contracted to a recording company, or receive a major part of their income in the last five (5) years from these activities. (Amateur, not deriving a major portion of income from performing music)

9. Where stage names are used, full names must be advised on the entry form. Substitutes are permitted but members of the group may be less than originally advised, but not less than three (3) members. NO HARMONY BACKING ALLOWED, except as part of a DUO/GROUP entry. No other enhancements allowed. Duo/Groups MUST contain harmony parts.
10. Entrants equipment is used and stored at their own risk. The awards committee will not be responsible for the loss, damage or theft of personal effects and/or property.
11. The organisers reserve the right to refuse admission to any of the functions. No alcohol or illegal drugs are permitted on the premises.
12. Contestants must not contact judges or scrutineers with intent to influence decisions or allocation of points.
13. Overall Winners in all sections, junior, intermediate, senior, 40 plus, songwriter and 60 plus are eligible to enter these awards in those sections the following year providing the winner has not gone up an age bracket e.g. Junior moves to intermediate section the following year.
14. The awards committee has the right to limit the number of entries. They may add or delete from the programme where necessary and beneficial to the majority. No late entries will be accepted.
15. The entry form is signed and verified by the President or Secretary of the represented mother club after it has been filled in. When a duo or group enters representing different clubs, the entry form must be verified by the respective mother club.
16. Audition times will be drawn by ballot and advised after closing date of entries.
17. Backing bands will be available for all auditions in all sections, no other accompanist allowed unless contestant plays their own instrument.
18. Contestants are required to provide four (4) copies of fully chorded song sheets, named and attached to firm backing with non-reflective surface.
19. Contestants to perform one (1) item completely in auditions. Finalists MUST perform and DIFFERENT song in the finals concert. BOTH audition and finals songs must be entered on entry form.

20. Judging will be done at both auditions and finals
21. Contestants must report to official registration desk at least thirty (30) minutes before their advised audition time. Contestants not available when called may be disqualified.
22. Judging will be on musical ability, presentation and entertainment value. Any tie breaker to be a count back on a selected category, ie musical ability
23. The Convenor MUST be consulted prior to any recall being performed.
24. The organisers reserve the right to record and broadcast any or all of the either the auditions or finals, subject to copy write where applicable.
25. Contestants or parent/caregiver will give a signed undertaking to return any/all trophies in good condition when requested to do so.
26. Song writing entries must be of the contestants own original work. Any backing is allowed on the recording. Contestants may enter as many songs as they wish. Only original songs that HAVE NOT won an overall title at any other award are eligible. Please only send ONE (1) lyric sheet and ONE (1) CD per song. NO lyric sheets or CD's are returned PLEASE SEND COPIES.
27. Any violation of the above may result in disqualification. In the event of a dispute or misinterpretation of the rules, the Convenors decision will be binding on all parties