



Dear Contestant,

Welcome to the 2022 Miss Gay USofA Newcomer National Pageant! We are so happy to be back after missing the two previous National Pageants due to the Coronavirus Pandemic! To those of you who have competed at the National level previously, we are happy to have you back competing with us for another year! If this is your first time competing at our National Pageant, we hope you have a wonderful experience!

Preliminary competition for this year's pageant will be held on Monday, August 1, 2022, Tuesday, August 2, 2022 and Wednesday, August 3, 2022. Final Night competition will be held on Thursday, August 4, 2022. Refer to the schedule of events included within this handbook for specific information. If you feel the package you are bringing to compete with is strong enough to make you our winner, please be available to stay in Dallas through Friday, August 5, 2022. Our winner will have their first photo shoot as Miss Gay USofA Newcomer on day #1 of their reign in Dallas with Nationally-recognized photographer Scotty Kirby. Our winner will also be joining the cast in the Rose Room for the first official booking of her reign on Friday Night, August 5, 2022.

This is your contestant handbook. Please read over the complete contents of this handbook carefully. We strongly urge you to bring a printed copy of the handbook with you to Dallas. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding the National Pageant that you do not find answered within. Good luck and most importantly, have fun! We are excited to welcome you to Dallas, Texas!

Sincerely,
Darryl Neumann, National Promoter
And
Alexa Oasis, Miss Gay USofA Newcomer 2019-2021



RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Miss Gay USofA Newcomer contestants must be born male. Contestants must be 21 years of age or older on or before Monday, August 1, 2022. All participants should be prepared to present valid, Government-issued photo identification at Contestant Registration. **Contestants will not be allowed to compete if valid identification is not presented.**
2. Contestants may not have held a State or Regional Title (whether won or appointed) or have been a National Finalist as a female impersonator in any division of USofA Pageants or any division of the following major Nationally-franchised National Pageant Systems: Miss Gay America, Continental, Entertainer of the Year, All American Goddess, Miss Black Universe and Miss Black America.
3. Contestants may not have appeared on any drag-based reality television series.
4. Contestants may not enter Miss Gay USofA Newcomer following the third year anniversary of their first entry into the Miss Gay USofA Newcomer System.
5. Judging for preliminary competition will be on a total points accumulated system. Final night will be scored using the standard USofA comparative scoring system. Ties will be broken in favor of the contestant with the highest talent score.
6. Contestants will be judged in the following categories: Personal Interview, Talent and Fashion (Evening Gown).
7. Talent presentations will be limited to seven (7) minutes. Prop set-up and removal time will be limited to five (5) minutes total. Talent presentations will be timed at rehearsals. Contestants with presentations longer than seven (7) minutes will be subject to an administrative point deduction.
8. Any type of talent presentation is acceptable except those which may cause injury to any person present or which may cause damage to the venue. No GLITTER, FIRE or LIQUIDS of any kind, including WATER, may be used in any talent presentation. No LIVE ANIMALS or REPTILES may be used during any talent presentation. No SMOKE/FOG MACHINES may be used. For specific information regarding Talent presentation music, see the appropriate section(s) within the Contestant Handbook.
9. The use of or dispensing of any illegal drugs or marijuana is not tolerated at USofA Pageants. If you or any member of your team is caught violating this rule, you will be immediately disqualified and removed from the pageant venue/host hotel. (FYI marijuana usage/possession is illegal in Texas.)
10. Stealing or damaging another person's property is not tolerated at USofA Pageants. If you or any member of your team is caught violating this rule, you will be immediately disqualified and removed from the pageant venue/host hotel.
11. USofA Pageants does not discriminate against entertainers whose bodies contain silicone and those who use hormones. The use of silicone and/or hormones will not be considered by any judge during the competition. Nudity, semi-nudity and the use of pasties is not allowed by any contestant, contestant's dancers, former or entertainer at any USofA pageant or sanctioned event.
12. Any contestant who is not at the appropriate place at the specified time will be subject to an administrative point deduction.
13. The winner of the pageant will be required to sign a contract with the National Promoter. Failure to sign the contract could result in forfeiture of the title. The contract is very specific and must be adhered to without fail to avoid any violations which could ultimately result in a monetary fine and/or forfeiture of the title.
14. Any finalist in the top 5 not remaining on stage for the entire crowning process and photos afterward will forfeit their placement in the pageant and any prize money due for that placement.
15. Within seven (7) days of winning the pageant, the new National Titleholder must have and maintain a valid email address, cellular telephone, Facebook and Instagram page for the entire length of the reign.

16. On day #1 of their reign, the new National Titleholder will attend a photo shoot in Dallas and from that photo shoot, will submit to the National Promoter one (1) official crown shot promo and one (1) other promo photo (with or without crown).

17. Any contestant who has qualified to compete at the 2022 Miss Gay USofA Newcomer Pageant as the winner or first alternate of their qualifying preliminary and fails to attend the National Pageant is subject to be banned within ALL divisions of USofA Pageants and any other National Pageant System that upholds the USofA Banned Contestant Policy for a period of at least one (1) full year. They will be required to return their entire preliminary prize package including reimbursement in full of any cash prize money to the Promoter who awarded it. They will also owe an administrative fee to the National Office of \$250.00.

18. The National Promoter, on behalf of USofA Pageants, reserves the right to make any decision concerning any matter not covered by these Rules and Regulations.

HOST HOTEL

Our host hotel for this year's National Pageant is the MCM Elegante Hotel, located at 2330 West Northwest Highway (near the intersection of Interstate Highway 35 and Northwest Highway). It is three miles from Dallas Love Field Airport and approximately 10-15 minutes away from our venue (during periods of light traffic), the Rose Room inside S4 Nightclub. The MCM Elegante Hotel is proud to be the official Host Hotel for all USofA National Pageants held in Dallas.

ALL QUALIFIED CONTESTANTS, INCLUDING THOSE WHO RESIDE IN THE LOCAL AREA, ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A ROOM AT THE HOST HOTEL DURING THE NIGHTS THAT THE PAGEANT IS ONGOING (MON, TUES, WED AND THURS). THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.

The hotel is now accepting reservations for this year's National Pageant. Contestants are advised to check with their promoter if a hotel room at Nationals was part of their prize package, to avoid duplicating any room reservations. If a hotel room is included in your prize package, your promoter has been instructed to reserve that room for you, unless you have had direct contact with your promoter and other specific arrangements have been made. Any additional rooms that are needed to house your team/entourage are your responsibility to secure. To reserve a room, you should go to our website at www.missgayusofanewcomer.com and click on the "Host Hotel" tab at the top of the home page. Once on the Host Hotel page, there will be a link to click which will take you to the host hotel's Reservation System. The box where our Group Code goes will already be populated. Our discounted nightly room rate is \$92.00 plus tax for a standard room with either one king bed or two double beds. Poolside cabana suites are available at a higher price of \$122.00 plus tax per night. Be sure to select the appropriate room type to insure your nightly room rate matches the type of room you are wanting to reserve. Selecting other room types may cause the nightly room rate to go up. The discounted nightly room rate is available for arrivals as early as Saturday, July 30, 2022 for those of you who may want to arrive prior to the pageant starting. For those of you who may want to stay a couple of days after the pageant to enjoy Dallas, the discounted nightly room rate is valid for stays through Saturday, August 6, 2022. A major credit card or debit card is required to book hotel room(s). No charges or authorizations will be placed on the card prior to the date of arrival. If the credit card used to guarantee the reservation is to be used as the method of payment for the room(s), the credit card **must** be presented at check-in to be swiped. If you intend to pay for any room(s) with a credit card

that **WILL NOT** be present at check-in to be swiped, you must contact the hotel at (214)351-4477 and request a Credit Card Authorization Form. They will send you the form which will need to be completed and faxed back to the hotel. That completed form authorizes the hotel to place room charges on a credit card without the actual credit card being presented at check-in. Hotel rooms that are being paid by a third party's credit/debit card must have a Credit Card Authorization Form on file with the reservation. Without this form being on file, the hotel will refuse to check the guest into the room until an alternate method of payment is received. The host hotel also does not accept pre-paid/reloadable debit cards or Visa/MasterCard "Gift" cards as method of payment for rooms. The deadline to reserve rooms within our group block and be assured to receive the negotiated nightly room rate of \$92.00 plus tax is **Monday, July 18, 2022**.

Due to damage that has been done to hotel rooms during pageants held within previous years, the host hotel will require the OCCUPANT of each hotel room to swipe a credit or debit card for incidentals and will automatically authorize on THAT card a **\$100.00 per room** security deposit, which is completely refundable upon inspection of the room at check-out, if there are no damages done to the room. This \$100.00 per room security deposit is totally separate from the usual amount the hotel authorizes credit/debit cards for incidentals at check-in, which is about 10% of the estimated total cost of the entire stay. "Incidentals" allow you to charge things to your room like restaurant purchases, etc. Be sure the card you offer for payment of incidentals will allow these authorizations to be taken, or you will not be able to check-in. Most Promoters who are furnishing rooms to their contestants will generally require the representative who will be occupying the room (or the person in charge of the people who will be occupying the room) to swipe their credit card for incidentals and the security deposit at check-in.



MCM Elegante Hotel 2330 West Northwest Highway, Dallas, TX (214)351-4477
For more photos and information about our host hotel, go online to our website:
www.missgayusofanewcomer.com

If you encounter any difficulty in reserving rooms online via the link provided on our website, you may call the hotel directly (weekdays between 8:30am-4:30pm) and speak to Norma Ventrca, the General Manager. She will assist you in making your hotel room reservation.

HOTEL TOWELS AND LINENS

It is **VERY IMPORTANT** to remember to bring plenty of towels/rags from home to use in removing your make-up, body paint, bronzer or any other type of temporary makeup/markings you place on your body. It ruins the hotel's wash rags, hand towels and bath towels when you use them to remove these items from your body. It also ruins the hotel's bed linens when you sit on the bed or get into bed without first removing these items completely from your body. Contestants will be required to purchase any of the hotel's towels or bed linens ruined due to this and will also lose administrative points for each ruined item. The hotel will set the prices for these items, in the event they need to be purchased by a contestant. This also applies to any of your dancers who will be wearing make-up, body paint, bronzer or any other type of temporary markings on their body, which could ruin the hotel's towels or bed linens.

HOTEL SECURITY

Our host hotel has rules and policies which all guests must adhere to in order to be allowed to stay in the hotel. You must be mindful that our group is not large enough to completely sell out the hotel, so there will be other guests staying in the hotel that are not a part of our pageant. You must respect the privacy of other guests. The hotel is aware that members of our group will be returning in the early morning hours each night and no loud music or noise disturbances, slamming doors, arguing, fighting or people running around inside the hallways (or outside on the grounds) will be tolerated. The hotel will not allow people to congregate in the lobby area or the restaurant/lounge area after hours. The hotel does employ security guards who will enforce the hotel's rules and policies. Contestants will be held fully responsible for the actions of all members of their respective teams while they are on the hotel premises, whether they are guests at the hotel or not. This includes dancers, prop personnel and any other people on your team. You are responsible for monitoring their behavior and correcting any problems before these individuals become involved in a situation that turns into a reported issue. The National Promoter will be in contact with the hotel's management each day to receive any reports they have on any inappropriate behavior on behalf of any pageant participants or guests. Additionally, the hotel management reserves the right to inspect each guest room on a daily basis, whether or not there is a "do not disturb" sign displayed on the door and whether or not there is anyone in the room at the time the inspection is conducted. These inspections will be conducted specifically to make sure no damage is occurring to the hotel room, that there is no smoking occurring in designated "non-smoking" rooms, that there are no unauthorized pets being kept in a guest room and that no illegal activity is ongoing. There is to be NO prop building, painting/decorating inside a hotel room or on the front parking lot. Over-sized props may not be stored inside a hotel room or in any hotel hallways. Pool hours MUST be adhered to. Any contestant with team members caught in the pool by Security after hours is subject to being removed from the hotel. Any serious infraction of the MCM Elegante's guest rules and policies will result in the contestant and their team being evicted from the host hotel without a refund. If this happens, the contestant will also be disqualified from the pageant. DO NOT risk getting disqualified from the pageant because of the actions or behavior of your team of people. You've come too far and spent too much money to be sent home because the people you brought with you can't act like responsible adults.

As with any other public place, you must be cognizant of your surroundings when you are outside, especially at night. There have been some isolated incidents in the recent past which have caused the

hotel's management to “beef up” the presence of security during the overnight hours. If you see something suspicious while you are on the hotel premises, do not hesitate to report it to the front desk agent, so Security may go and investigate the goings on.

PAGEANT VENUE

The venue for this year’s competition will be the Rose Room inside S4 Nightclub, located at 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Be sure to check the schedule of events as some daytime events will be held at the host hotel and some will be held at the Rose Room, to make sure you are at the correct location.

GROUPS FOR PRELIMINARY COMPETITION

Preliminary competition on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday will be done in six (6) contestant groups. During Registration on Monday morning, August 1, 2022, you will draw your contestant number. Your contestant group will be assigned based on your contestant number. You will compete in each of the three categories on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Preliminary competition will be as follows:

	INTERVIEW	TALENT	EVENING GOWN
MONDAY	1 & 2	3 & 4	5 & 6
TUESDAY	3 & 4	5 & 6	1 & 2
WEDNESDAY	5 & 6	1 & 2	3 & 4

If you are not happy with the group that you draw into, or if you need to try to be in a group that competes in a specific category on a specific day, you will be given the opportunity to trade numbers with other contestants during registration before the Pageant Staff records your contestant number. There will be no requests for group placement taken in advance. Any qualified contestant who has not arrived at registration in time to draw their own contestant number will have their number drawn on their behalf by a member of the staff and that contestant can be used to trade number with other contestants who are present, if the need arises. Once your contestant number has been recorded by Pageant Staff, no changes will be allowed.

REGISTRATION, MEETINGS AND REHEARSALS

Because of the logistics associated with organizing and producing a pageant of this size, all contestants are expected to arrive for all meetings and rehearsals approximately 10-15 minutes before the scheduled start time and are expected to have with them any materials or items they are required to bring. Contestants who arrive for a meeting, call time or rehearsal **after** the scheduled start time will be considered late and are subject to an administrative point deduction as a penalty. Registration for the Miss Gay USofA Newcomer Pageant will be held at **9:30am** on Monday, August 1, 2022 at the host hotel. At Registration, after staff and VIP introductions and a brief organizational meeting, contestants will draw their contestant number, receive their contestant ID Badge and will be able to purchase

discounted Passes to the 4-night event for every member of their team. Be sure to bring your Government-issued photo identification with you to Registration. The staff will need to scan a copy of your ID.

ID BADGES/DANCER PASSES

At registration, each contestant will be required to purchase a Backstage Helper/Assistant ID Badge. The only exception to this is if your Promoter is acting as your Backstage Helper/Assistant on each night of the pageant and will be the only person needing access to the dressing room to help you. If your Promoter is your backstage helper, but you will have any other person who will need access to you while you are backstage (such as a hairdresser, etc.) you will be required to purchase a Backstage Helper/Assistant ID Badge. This ID Badge is similar to the 4-night Dancer Passes except this specific ID Badge authorizes the bearer to accompany the contestant into the dressing area. The Backstage Helper/Assistant must present their ID Badge to be scanned in order to be allowed into the venue each night.

Contestants and backstage helpers must present their ID Badge to be allowed into the venue each night. Dancers must present their Dancer passes at the door to be allowed into the venue. Anyone who loses their Dancer Pass will be expected to pay the full door cover for every remaining night of the pageant.

ADMISSIONS

Contestants do not have to pay admission to enter the venue on any night of competition, provided they are in possession of their Contestant ID Badge. Promoters also do not have to pay admission to enter the venue on any night of competition, provided they are wearing their Promoter ID Badge. For those who do not have a permanent Promoter name badge, temporary ID Badges will be available. Everyone else is required to either have a valid pre-paid 4-night pass or pay the door admission on each night of the competition to enter the venue. This includes backstage helpers, dancers, prop personnel, managers, husbands, lovers, friends, family members and all other supporters.

TEXAS STATE LAW REQUIRES ANYONE ENTERING A NIGHTCLUB WHERE ALCOHOL IS SOLD OR SERVED MUST BE IN POSSESSION OF A VALID GOVERNMENT-ISSUED PHOTO ID. ALL PERSONS ENTERING THE PAGEANT VENUE MUST ADHERE TO THIS LAW. AGAIN, IT IS TEXAS STATE LAW, NOT THE POLICY OF THE VENUE. THIS WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED. PERSONS WITHOUT A VALID GOVERNMENT-ISSUED PHOTO ID WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE VENUE. PLEASE INSURE THAT ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR TEAM HAVE A VALID GOVERNMENT-ISSUED PHOTO ID. PER STATE LAW, PHOTOGRAPHS/SCREENSHOTS OF OFFICIAL OR TEMPORARY ID'S OR DIGITAL IMAGES OF OFFICIAL OR REPLACEMENT ID'S, TEMPORARY ID'S OR PENDING DOCUMENTS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE IN THE STATE OF TEXAS AND ENTRY WITH THESE ITEMS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.

S4 Nightclub is an 18 & up venue. The venue is VERY STRICT when it comes to enforcing State Alcohol Laws. If you are under the age of 21 and are caught consuming an alcoholic beverage inside S4 Nightclub, you will be removed from the venue, stripped of any 4-night pass you may possess for the pageant and you will not be allowed to re-enter the venue for the remainder of the pageant.

General Admission for preliminary night competition on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights is **\$15.00** per person each night. General Admission for final night on Thursday is **\$30.00** per person.

For the first time in several years, there will be reserved seating available for purchase each night of the pageant for anyone who does not want to stand the entire evening. There are two different types of reserved seating. Up-close VIP reserved seats on either side of the runway right in front of the stage will be sold for \$10.00 per seat per night. These rows of up-close seats include tables where drinks may be placed. Rows of individual reserved seats behind the judges table in the center portion of the room may be purchased for \$5.00 per seat per night. These rows of individual reserved seats do not have tables. There is a special reserved VIP area for Promoters. Contestants will not be permitted to sit with their promoters inside this VIP area.

During Registration, contestants may purchase a 4-night discounted pass for each member of their team, including dancers, assistants and prop personnel. These passes are good for an admission on each of the preliminary nights and on final night. These passes will be sold for **\$60.00** each. This is a \$15.00 savings over paying the door admission on each night of the Pageant. Cash only will be accepted at Registration. These 4-night discounted passes are only available for contestants to purchase during Registration. These passes are General Admission only. They do not include a reserved seat on any night of the pageant. After Registration, these discounted passes will no longer be available for purchase. There is an ATM machine inside the lobby of the host hotel as well as several banks and businesses within a 2-3 block area of the hotel with ATMs available, if you need to obtain cash before Registration begins.

OFFICIAL JEWELER

Larry Moore, aka Lucinda Holliday, the owner of Made For A Queen Jewelry Company, is the Official Jeweler of the Miss Gay USofA Newcomer Pageant. Lucinda has been making and selling jewelry for the past 20-plus years. Lucinda proudly provides our National Titleholder with an original, fully-embellished, crystal rhinestone bucket-style crown and matching jewelry set. Lucinda will be present at the venue each night selling jewelry as well as other important items such as make-up, lashes, colored contacts, hair accessories and other miscellaneous items.

OFFICIAL VIDEOGRAPHER

Versage Holt has been commissioned to videotape all four nights of competition this year and produce a DVD of our National Pageant. Versage has been videotaping pageants for numerous years and has produced professional quality DVD's of National Pageants for USofA Pageants as well as other Nationally-franchised Pageant Systems. I first used Versage for our 2018 National Pageant starring Domita Sanchez and I was very impressed with the finished product.

NO VIDEOTAPING OR LIVE BROADCASTING DURING THE PAGEANT

Legal purposes dictate there will be **NO BROADCASTING LIVE AND NO VIDEOTAPING** of the pageant

by individuals present at the pageant. If a member of the pageant staff or venue security notices anyone broadcasting live or videotaping any portion of the pageant, they will be asked to stop immediately. Anyone caught violating this rule a second time will be removed from the venue without any refund of admission paid. If anyone removed from the venue for violating this rule is in possession of a 4-night pass or a Backstage Helper/Assistant ID Badge that can be tracked back to a specific contestant, that contestant is subject to an administrative point deduction.

VENDORS

We are pleased to announce that with the move to the Rose Room, there is space available which will be used by Vendors who will have pageant/drag related items for sale each night of the pageant. At the time of the creation of this handbook, not all Vendors have been confirmed, however, in addition to our Official Jeweler, we do have a cosmetics vendor and a hair/wig vendor. We hope to have more vendors sign on with us to occupy a booth and display their products during the pageant each night.

OPENING PRODUCTION / PRESENTATION OF CONTESTANTS

The theme for the National Pageant, as selected by our reigning National Titleholder, Alexxa Oasis, is **“Winter Wasteland”**. The opening production will feature Alexxa, selected backup dancers, former USofA Newcomer National Titleholders and the members of the reigning USofA National Court. The presentation of contestants will occur immediately following the opening production. Contestants should wear for the presentation of contestants an outfit that follows the theme. Jewelry must match or accentuate the outfit that is worn. Accessories may be worn as long as they match the theme or compliment the overall look. No handheld props or over-the-top hairdos are allowed. Due to space limitations on the Rose Room's stage and due to the fact that we are again the largest division of USofA with upwards of 50+ contestants who have qualified to compete, please refrain from wearing anything with a large back piece or long train. Remember, this is not a creative costume category. Your outfit of choice should allow you to move freely and walk at a normal gait without any difficulty. No escorts for contestants will be allowed during the presentation of contestants. Presentation of contestants is not a scored category of competition and therefore does not affect the final outcome of the pageant. Contestants needing further clarification on the guidelines for your presentation outfit should contact Alexxa at (956)363-7369.

PERSONAL INTERVIEW PHASE OF COMPETITION

Each contestant will be interviewed individually by the judging panel. The purpose of the Personal Interview in the USofA Newcomer System is to allow the judges some insight into the character of each contestant. During the interview, judges are also afforded the opportunity to evaluate each contestant's basic qualities, such as general intelligence, ability to communicate clearly and concisely, attitude, composure, etc. The contestant should know and be able to answer questions regarding the USofA Newcomer System. The judges may also gather information about a contestant's personal or professional life. The basic nature of the Personal Interview is intended to be casual and relaxed

conversation between the contestant and judging panel. Points are not deducted based on whether a contestant interviews dressed as a male or female. However, the suggested attire for the Personal Interview is what the contestant would wear to a professional job interview.

FASHION (EVENING GOWN) PHASE OF COMPETITION

Evening gowns may be of any color or style. They **MUST**, however, be full length. The gown must fit well, the contestant must model it elegantly and all of the elements (hair, make-up, accessories, shoes and gown) must come together for an overall look that makes the contestant look their very best. The USofA System has traditionally rewarded contestants in each division who bring a unique combination of evening gown, hair, make-up, accessories, modeling and poise to the stage. This has not changed. The USofA System has also often rewarded evening gowns that feature a lot of embellishments, such as rhinestones, beading, etc., as well as hair and accessories which would best be described as “high drag”. These types of gowns are still appropriate for this phase of competition. Couture gowns are also appropriate for this phase of competition, however, contestants are cautioned this is **NOT** a “creative evening wear” category and gowns that could be considered costumes should be avoided. We also discourage gowns that are so heavily embellished that the contestant cannot model them elegantly due to the weight of the gown. Our judges are asked to educate themselves about current fashion trends and styles. Contestants should be aware that a gown, while beautiful, may appear to be of a style that is outdated and therefore may not score as well as those that do follow current fashion trends. Further, a gown with few or no embellishments (rhinestones, etc.) is able to score just as well or better than a fully-embellished gown as long as the overall look (hair, make-up, accessories, shoes, modeling, poise and fit of the gown) makes the contestant look their very best.

Each contestant will be required to complete and submit an evening gown description card that describes the gown they will wear during preliminary competition and final night competition. If the contestant chooses to wear a different gown on final night, an additional evening gown description card will be submitted. Blank evening gown description cards will be provided by the pageant staff. These cards will be collected from you in the dressing room.

When you arrive at the venue for evening gown competition on preliminary night, you should be ready to get dressed with your hair and make-up already complete. Time is very limited before evening gown competition begins on preliminary nights. The dressing room will not be accessible early enough to give you time to get “in face” at the venue.

TALENT PHASE OF COMPETITION

Talent may be any type of entertainment presentation as long as it does not create a danger or create the possibility of injury to either the contestant or anyone else present, or damage to the venue. No fire, glitter, dry chemicals or liquids of any kind – including water – may be used in your talent presentation. No live animals or reptiles may be used in your talent presentation. No smoke/fog machines may be used in your talent presentation. Talent presentation is limited to seven (7) minutes in length. Talent presentations that contain racial slurs or excessively vulgar, obscene or insulting language should be avoided. The judging panel will consider the content of your talent presentation

when scoring it. Prop set-up and removal is limited to five (5) minutes total. There is no restriction in the number of persons who participate in your talent presentation. You should be prepared at Registration on Monday morning, August 1, 2022, to inform pageant staff the exact number of back-up dancers and prop personnel you will have. Each person must pay the door admission or be in possession of a valid “dancer pass” in order to be allowed to enter the venue. Under normal operations, back up dancers will have a separate dressing area and are not allowed in the contestant dressing area at any time.

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S4 Nightclub is an 18 & up establishment.

MODESTY POLICY FOR S4 ROSE ROOM

Our pageant venue is located in a geographic area of the City (near an elementary school) that City Ordinance requires costuming on stage to adhere to certain modesty guidelines, or the venue runs the chance of being labeled (and taxed) as a Sexually-Oriented business. To maintain the legality required by the City Ordinance so as not to get our venue into any legal trouble, any participant on stage should wear tights or multiple pairs of stockings under costumes that are swimsuit cut as well as other acceptable undergarments for tops that have extreme plunging necklines or open sides. For males, genitalia as well as upper and lower buttocks must be completely and securely covered. For females, in addition to genitalia and upper and lower buttocks being completely and securely covered, the side or under part of the breast, nor the areola should be exposed. If you have questions regarding the use a specific outfit, you may email Jenna Skyy missjennaskyy@aol.com at for clarification.

TALENT REHEARSALS

Each contestant must attend the designated talent rehearsal for their assigned group and it is highly recommended that any persons participating in your talent (dancers, prop persons, etc) also be present at this time. See the next section in this handbook for instructions on how to submit music for both your talent presentation(s) and your crowning number, in the event one is needed. It is during this talent rehearsal that we have set aside a limited amount of time for you to take the stage, block dancers and props, have mic checks for live vocals and coordinate any staging cues during the sound check of your submitted media. Each contestant's talent media will be played from start to finish in order by contestant order. Be sure you are well organized as this time on stage is limited to

the length of your talent presentation, allowing for just a few brief minutes before and after to set up and remove any props. While each contestant is required to attend talent rehearsal, it is not required for a contestant to take the stage, if they wish to waive that time on stage. The Rose Room is NOT available at any time during the day or night for using the stage to rehearse. Entry into the club for TALENT REHEARSALS ONLY will be the back doors of the club (park in the rear parking lot to access the back doors). The front doors will remain locked during the day and will not be open until later in the evening. After entering the back door, you will be on the back patio of the club. Go up the stairs and enter the Rose Room through the glass doors.

SUBMITTING TALENT AND CROWNING MEDIA – (MUSIC OR VIDEO)

Media for talent(s) and crowning is to be submitted electronically by **NO LATER THAN** Friday, July 22, 2022. Talent presentations that contain racial slurs or excessively vulgar, obscene or insulting language should be avoided. The judging panel will consider the content of your talent presentation when scoring it. Share files with missjennaskyy@aol.com. It is encouraged to bring a back-up on USB Flash Drive to your talent rehearsal. To insure accuracy, please use the following naming conventions:

- Prelim, Contestant Name
- Final, Contestant Name
- Talent, Contestant Name (if same file is being used both nights)
- Crowning, Contestant Name

Media File Formats – The type of file to be submitted will depend on the following scenarios:

Contestants Using the Video Screen:

A single file for the production is to be saved as .MP4 or .MOV format. These are the ONLY two formats which can be converted to the parameters necessary to play on the Rose Room screen. A separate audio file should NOT be submitted, as the audio will play from the video file.

Contestants NOT Using the Video Screen:

A single file for the music is to be saved as .MP3 format. Other formats may not play at optimal quality or at all.

Obviously, since the ONLY TWO ACCEPTABLE formats are listed above, No cassette tapes, commercial CD's , CD-RW, or CD-R with multiple tracks will be accepted. If, after reading this, you are still not sure what to submit, please reach out to Jenna Skyy via email to have any additional questions you may have answered.

STAGE DIMENSIONS

The Rose Room stage is 11' deep. However, special lighting is permanently installed on floor at the very back 2'6" (2½ ft) at the rear of the stage. Therefore, there is only 8'6" (8½ ft) of performance area (DEPTH) on the stage. The 2'6" area that contains the permanently installed special lighting is

clearly marked with reflective, fluorescent tape. NO ONE ON STAGE FOR YOUR TALENT PRESENTATION MAY STEP WITHIN THAT TAPED OFF 2'6" AREA AT THE BACK OF THE STAGE. NOTHING CAN BE DRAPED OVER THE LIGHTS OR POSITIONED WHERE IT IS TOUCHING THE LIGHTS THAT WOULD RESTRICT THEIR ABILITY TO MOVE/SPIN/ROTATE. The competition area is 8'6" (8½ ft) deep and 26'0" wide. The ceiling is 12'0" high. The catwalk is 12' long and 4' wide at the end and it ends in steps to get to the floor of the Rose Room. The base of the catwalk is 12' wide. High velocity fans are built into the stage on either side of the base of the catwalk. The entire back wall of the stage is covered completely by an LED screen. Contestants and/or their dancers must not touch the LED screen for any reason. A diagram of the stage with all of the dimensions included may be obtained electronically by submitting an email request to dneumann@usofa.org. Once you receive the diagram electronically, you can share that with anyone from your entourage who you think will need the info.

SCORING SYSTEM FOR PRELIMINARY COMPETITION

Seven judges will be used for all categories of competition. Scoring for preliminary competition will be done on a **cumulative** scoring system. Each judge will give each contestant a score based on his performance in the category without regard to the other contestants. With this scoring system, more than one contestant can be given the same score. Scores are assigned as follows:

• Personal Interview	1 – 12 points
• Fashion/Evening Gown	1 – 12 points
• Talent	2 – 24 points
MAXIMUM POINTS PER JUDGE	48 points
	<u>X 5 Judges</u> (high and low scores dropped)
Total Possible Points per Contestant	240 points

The twelve contestants with the highest accumulative scores will become the finalists. This scoring system will select finalists without any regard to contestant groups. It is possible that a group will have more than two finalists, or even have no finalists.

SCORING SYSTEM FOR FINAL NIGHT COMPETITION

The twelve (12) contestants with the highest accumulative scores from preliminary competition will be judged **comparatively** on final night for Talent and Fashion/Evening Gown competition. Each judge will be tasked to individually rank the contestants from 1 to 12. A specific point value is assigned to each ranking. The Personal Interview scores will carry over from preliminary competition for the 12 finalists. Scores are assigned for final night as follows:

• Personal Interview	1 – 12 points (from Prelim scores)
• Fashion/Evening Gown	1 – 12 points
• Talent	2 – 24 points
MAXIMUM POINTS PER JUDGE	48 points
	<u>X 5 Judges</u> (high and low scores dropped)
Total Possible Points per Contestant	240 points

Packets containing preliminary night score sheets & judges comment sheets will be available for all contestants to pick up at the venue immediately following crowning of the new National Titleholder. The finalists will receive their final night packets (and preliminary packets) in the dressing room once they are dismissed from the stage during crowning. If you are due to receive money for your placement the pageant, you should collect your envelope from the National Promoter or his designee prior to leaving the venue on final night. Any member of the top 5 who does not remain on stage until officially dismissed after crowning photos are taken will forfeit their placement in the pageant and any prize money due for that placement.

PAGEANT DIRECTOR/STAGE MANAGER

Jenna Skyy, the Chief Productions Officer of USofA Pageants, LLC, will be the Pageant Director for the Miss Gay USofA Newcomer Pageant. Jenna will be in charge of talent rehearsals each afternoon at the venue as well as manage the flow of the pageant each evening.

CONTESTANT COORDINATOR

Ka'ALiyah McKim Diamond, former Miss Gay USofA Newcomer and former Miss Gay USofA At-Large, is the National Contestant Coordinator for the Miss Gay USofA Newcomer pageant. Ka'ALiyah's role is to insure that you have a positive and enjoyable time during your pageant experience. Ka'ALiyah will be available at the host hotel beginning Sunday, July 31 and will be available during interview each day during preliminary competition in the lobby area of the hotel. She should be your initial point of contact if you have any questions or concerns, or should you need anything from the Pageant Staff, the Pageant Director or the National Promoter during the week of the pageant.

DRESSING ROOM SUPERVISOR

Kayla Monroe, one of the three members who make up the team of State Promoters for Texas USofA Pageants, will be the dressing room supervisor each evening during the pageant. Kayla will have the final say on who has admission into the dressing room, as well as enforcement of all rules pertaining to the dressing room. She will be the one who you will obtain your gown description cards from when you compete in preliminary evening gown competition and on final night. She also will be helping out during the daytime at the host hotel by running interview during preliminary competition.

PROMOTER LIASIONS

We understand life must continue & some people simply aren't able to take off work to attend week-long drag pageants in other Cities. The co-Promoters for our Illinois Franchise, Andy Lewis and Joshua Grobelnik, have volunteered to be "Promoter Liasions" for any contestants who's Promoters have not yet made it to Dallas during the week or those who are not able to be in attendance at all during the pageant. With the exception of providing cash money to you, they will be available during the pageant to "fill-in" to do anything that you would have probably gone to your original Promoter for.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (Subject to Change)

MONDAY – AUGUST 1, 2022

9:30AM	Contestant Registration & Orientation (REQUIRED!)	Host Hotel
2:00PM	Interview, Group #1	Host Hotel
	Talent Rehearsal, Group #3	Rose Room
3:00PM	Interview, Group #2	Host Hotel
	Talent Rehearsal, Group #4	Rose Room
9:00PM	Doors Open to Public	Rose Room
	Check-in for Groups #5 & #6	Dressing Room
10:00PM	Pageant Begins, Gown Competition, Groups #5 & #6	Rose Room
10:45PM	Groups #3 & #4 check-in	Dressing Room

TUESDAY – AUGUST 2, 2022

2:00PM	Interview, Group #3	Host Hotel
	Talent Rehearsal, Group #5	Rose Room
3:00PM	Interview, Group #4	Host Hotel
	Talent Rehearsal, Group #6	Rose Room
9:00PM	Doors Open to Public	Rose Room
	Check-in for Groups #1 & #2	Dressing Room
10:00PM	Pageant Begins, Gown Competition, Groups #1 & #2	Rose Room
10:45PM	Groups #5 & #6 check-in	Dressing Room

WEDNESDAY – AUGUST 3, 2022

11:00AM	Promoter's Meeting	Host Hotel
2:00PM	Interview, Group #5	Host Hotel
	Talent Rehearsal, Group #1	Rose Room
3:00PM	Interview, Group #6	Host Hotel
	Talent Rehearsal, Group #2	Rose Room
9:00PM	Doors Open to Public	Rose Room
	Check-in for Groups #3 & #4	Dressing Room
10:00PM	Pageant Begins, Gown Competition, Groups #3 & #4	Rose Room
10:45PM	Groups #1 & #2 check-in	Dressing Room

THURSDAY – AUGUST 4, 2022

10:30AM	Final Day Brunch for Contestants, Promoters, Judges & Staff	Host Hotel
11:30AM	Preliminary Awards & Promoter Awards Presentation	Host Hotel
1:30PM	Presentation Rehearsal for Formers & Reigning National Court	Rose Room
2:00PM	Presentation Rehearsal for Contestants	Rose Room
8:00PM	Doors Open to Public	Rose Room
	Check-in for all Contestants, Formers, Entertainers & Emcees	Rose Room
9:00PM	Final Night Overture Begins	Rose Room

JUDGING PANEL

The following individuals are all highly qualified to judge a National Pageant. The National Promoter has selected them to comprise his judging panel for this year's competition. All of them are very familiar with the scoring System used by USofA Pageants as well as the rules and regulations that govern a USofA National Pageant. Here are your distinguished Judges:

KENYA M. BLACK of Orlando, FL. Kenya is a 3-year alumni of the Miss Gay USofA Newcomer Division, finishing in the top 5, which allowed her to represent on the exclusive Miss Gay USofA Newcomer Top 5 Tour. After her years spent at USofA Newcomer, she went on to compete for and capture the title of Miss Gay USofA At-Large 2017.

JACK NEILSEN of Chicago, IL. Jack is no stranger to pageants. Jack was an official judge at the very first Miss Gay USofA Newcomer Pageant in 2009 and has judged this pageant several times. Jack was introduced to pageants almost 20 years ago as the longtime friend and roommate of the late Tajma Hall. Jack is on the Board of Directors of the National Showgirl & Showman Pageant.

TONICA E. CAVALLI of San Antonio, TX. Tonica is a former Miss Gay Texas USofA Newcomer, a former Miss Gay USofA Newcomer 2013 and the reigning Miss Gay Texas USofA and our newly-crowned Miss Gay USofA. Tonica is the first former Miss Gay USofA Newcomer to be crowned Miss Gay USofA.

SHERMAN HOUSTON of Houston, TX. Sherman has judged at every level of USofA, from Local/City preliminaries to State & Regional Pageants to National Pageants. He has also Promoted his own USofA Franchises. He is the former owner of Bamboo Productions, which for years produced the Mr, Miss and Miss Globe International At Large Pageants.

GLAM DAVENPORT of Dallas, TX. Glam was our Miss USofA Diva 2019-2021. She is the reigning Miss Windy City North America. In addition to owning and managing a dance studio in the Dallas Metroplex, she is a Brand Ambassador, Influencer, Creative Director and Choreographer.

AURORA SEXTON of West Hollywood, CA. Probably one of the most well-known Miss Gay USofA's due to the incredible cinematic multimedia production which opened the final night of her step down, Aurora is a working member of the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists. She is the Creative Director at Brad Hammer Productions and is represented Internationally by AVO Talent, BAC Talent and Moniker Management. Highlights of her drag career include being crowned Entertainer of the Year 2011 and Miss Gay USofA 2016.

TOMMIE ROSS of Houston, TX. Often called the "Matriarch of USofA", Tommie was crowned Miss Gay USA (before the company officially became "USofA") in 1988 in Indianapolis, IN while anti-gay protests were staged outside. Though she has held many titles during her professional career (she's also been a Miss Continental, Miss Black Universe and Miss National, just to name a few) she remains very active with USofA Pageants, LLC and currently presides as Judges Panel Liaison in the Miss and Classic Divisions of USofA Pageants, LLC.

SPECIAL PRIZES AND RECOGNITIONS

Every Top 12 Finalist will receive a gift certificate redeemable for a free two-night mid-week stay at The District Hotel & Gay Resort in Oklahoma City, valid for one year (certain black-out dates apply). Thank you to our Corporate Sponsor, The District, for this special donation recognizing our Top 12 Finalists!

Our winner will receive a gift Certificate redeemable for a free two-night weekend stay at The District Hotel & Gay Resort in Oklahoma City and VIP Package including bottle service at The Living Room. Gift certificate valid for the entire reign. Thank you to our Corporate Sponsor, The District, for this special donation for our new winner!

The District is also sponsoring all our Preliminary Group Awards & Promoter Awards!

PRIZES AND RECOGNITIONS TO BE AWARDED

Group winner of each Preliminary Category	Silhouette Trophy
Best Presentation Outfit (Selected by a VIP Panel)	Plaque
Most Beautiful (Selected by the Judges Panel)	Plaque
Miss Congeniality (Selected by the Contestants)	Plaque
Best Non-Finalist (Contestant in 13 TH Place Overall)	Plaque
Overall Interview Winner	Plaque
Final Night Evening Gown Category Award	Plaque
Final Night Talent Category Award	Plaque

The Fourth Alternate will receive: Plaque + \$125.00 Cash

The Third Alternate will receive: Plaque + \$250.00 Cash

The Second Alternate will receive: Plaque + \$500.00 Cash

The First Alternate will receive: Plaque + \$750.00 Cash

The WINNER will receive: Plaque + \$2,500.00 Cash

In addition to the above cash prize, the WINNER will receive:

- Crystal Rhinestone Crown (custom-designed exclusively for the Miss Gay USofA Newcomer Pageant by Made For A Queen Jewelry Company)
- Embroidered Sash
- Monthly Jewelry Prize Package, Courtesy of Kevin Reed-Pollard & husband, Eric
- Set of Luggage
- Free US Government TSA PreCheck membership to use when flying during the reign & the next four years
- Free 6-day All-Inclusive vacation at the all-adult El Dorado Seaside Suites Resort by Karisma in Riviera Maya, Mexico (scheduled for October 30-November 5, 2022)

The winner's cash prize will be paid as follows:

- \$1,000.00 upon signing contract.
- \$500.00 at 6-month Review
- \$1,000.00 after completing of step down at the 2023 National Pageant

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding information contained in this contestant handbook, or if there is something that is not addressed to your satisfaction in this contestant handbook, please do the following: Check out the National Website at www.missgayusofanewcomer.com FIRST, then, if you still need answers or clarification, reach out to our National Titleholder, Alexxa Oasis. Finally, if you still have questions or need clarification on something, you may email the National Promoter at dneumann@usofa.org. Please be as specific as possible in your email regarding the information you're soliciting.

APPLICATION

Your contestant application is the last page of this handbook. Unfortunately, we apologize that we are not able to offer an electronic application submission process this year. **Please print legibly when completing your application and use blue or black ink.** All contestants wishing to compete at Nationals must complete and submit an application, regardless if you are the winner or first alternate of your preliminary, or if you are a self-sponsored contestant representing your preliminary. Please scan your completed application and email it to Dneumann@usofa.org before the deadline of Friday, July 22, 2022. The contestant application should be sent as an *attached file* in the email. Once your application has been received, you will be sent an email confirmation that it was received. During registration, contestants will be called to draw their contestant number in the order in which the applications were received. Applications not received by the deadline of Friday, July 22, 2022 may result in an administrative point deduction for the qualified contestant. If, for some reason, you do not receive a confirmation that your contestant application was received, please bring your original completed contestant application with you when you come to registration at the host hotel at 9:30am on Monday, August 1, 2022. Please also have in your possession when you show up for registration your Government-issued photo identification and adequate cash in which to purchase all the week-long dancer passes that you will require for your team.

Official Application / Contestant Information Sheet

MISS GAY USofA NEWCOMER 2022

Representing Prelim: _____

Stage Name: _____

Legal Name: _____

Date Of Birth: _____ / _____ / _____ Telephone: (_____) _____
MO DAY YEAR

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Sponsors: _____

My Talent Presentation will be: (Prelim Night) LIVE LIP-SYNC (Final Night) LIVE LIP-SYNC

Number of persons to be onstage during my Talent Presentation: Prelim: _____ Final: _____

Will props be used? (Prelim Night) YES NO (Final Night) YES NO

Name of Primary Dressing Room Attendant: _____

By my signature below, I hereby acknowledge and agree to release and hold harmless USofA Pageants, LLC, its owners, agents, servants, employees and assigns, the official Miss Gay USofA Newcomer Pageant, (hereinafter referred to as the "pageant"), the National Promoters, their agents servants, employees and assigns, from any liabilities and/or responsibilities whatsoever, from, associated with or arising out of my participation in the "pageant" and/or the title of Miss Gay USofA Newcomer, including but not limited to personal injury and/or damage to my personal property, regardless of whether the loss, injury or damage occurred before, during or after the "pageant" or any related activity.

I also hereby release myself from the right to any videotaping (sound and/or video), photography (still camera or motion picture) of the "pageant". I understand that I have no rights to any of the recordings that I may appear in or on, or of the future sales thereof. I hereby agree that my name and photographs (still or motion picture) taken of me during the "pageant" or any related activity may be used for promotional purposes or in any advertising publicity. By my signature below, I affirm and attest that I have read and do understand the rules and regulations of the "pageant" and agree to abide by the same.

Signature of Contestant (Please sign your LEGAL NAME)

Date