

**FU<sup>®</sup>ZION** *presents...*



*2022 B&G Pride Pageant  
Official Judges' Handbook*

# 2022 Mr. and Miss BG Pride Pageant Judges' Handbook

## **INTRODUCTION**

Thank you so much for serving as a judge for the Mr. and/or Miss BG Pride Pageant! Serving on the Panel of Judges for the BG Pride Pageant system is a serious responsibility, for you decide which King and/or Queen represents our community for the next year. **This year is even more important to establish the continuity of the system and since we take one step closer toward inclusivity with our community's inaugural Mr. BG Pride Pageant.** Our First Mr. BG Pride will be remembered in perpetuity.

To assist you in discharging this responsibility in a credible and transparent manner, this handbook contains guidelines, policies and procedures for judging at these pageants. Please carefully study this information. Your understanding and adherence to the official system of judging is critical to having a fair pageant and choosing our winners.

## **CONTESTANT ELIGIBILITY**

### **MISS BG PRIDE**

All contestants for Miss BG Pride must personify a female. This includes drag queens, female impersonators, cis females, female entertainers and all other female-presenting performers.

### **MR. BG PRIDE**

All contestants for Mr. BG Pride must personify a male. This includes drag kings, male impersonators, cis males, male entertainers and all other male-presenting performers.

### **ALL BG PRIDE PAGEANTS**

All contestants must be ages 18+ to compete. The BG Pride Pageant system does not discriminate against cis-gender contestants or contestants who use hormones, silicone and/or any body-modifications so long as those contestant personify their desired title.

## **JUDGES' ELIGIBILITY**

The BG Pride Pageant System seeks qualified judges. Judges should have a deep appreciation for and understanding of drag (the process, techniques and requirements) and at least one of the following qualifications: experience performing in drag, experience competing in pageants, backstage or "behind the scenes" drag support experience, support and patronage of the art of drag. Although preference is given to members of the local community, anyone with a close relationship with a contestant shall NOT be permitted to judge. All judges must commit to a code of ethics, detailed below, in order to qualify.

## **MR. & MISS BG PRIDE QUALIFICATIONS**

Mr. and Miss BG Pride are community service roles and the King and Queen must serve as representatives for the entire community. They must be able to meet the public, speak extemporaneously and represent our region with pride and charm. Although they must connect to the LGBTQ+ public, they must also exhibit the proper professionalism, respect and dignity needed to be effective in the general public. Most importantly, they must be committed to finding ways to address the pageant theme (Unity in the Community) and their platforms.

## **JUDGING OVERVIEW**

As you see, you have a very important responsibility by serving as an official judge of the Mr. and/or Miss BG Pride Pageant. Please read this Judge's Handbook carefully, for it has been compiled to help you understand the criteria for each category and the process you will follow to judge the competitors. If you have any questions, please contact the Pageant Director.

## **JUDGES' INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Remember that the contestants consider this pageant as serious business. Judges must understand that contestants are sincere in their efforts and should respond with supportive understanding and dignity.
2. As a judge, you will be observed during competition. The competitors have not only spent money, but also have invested considerable time and effort to prepare their program. Judges are expected to stay observant and carefully watch each performer in full. Do not let your eyes stray too long from the stage to take notes during a performance. The competitors deserve the respect of your attention, and your commitment to judge requires you give each performer equal courtesy and consideration.
3. JUDGE'S PAPERWORK.
  - a. Judge's Notes. Take good notes! This pageant is decided by ballots with points. Your notes could help sway your scoring at the end of a category, when you score the Official Judge's Ballot. Supplemental pages for notes are available at the Judge's request. All Judge's Notes sheets and supplemental pages must be turned in to the pageant director at the end of the pageant.
  - b. Judge's Sample Ballots. During the category, you will have a copy of the ballot to mark your initial thoughts about scoring. This will be a helpful resource in scoring your Official Judge's Ballot. All Sample Ballots must be turned in to the Pageant Director at the end of the pageant.
  - c. Official Judge's Ballots. At the end of each category, Judges will assign points to each contestant for each of the listed criteria in that category. They will sign the Official Judge's Ballot and submit it to the Auditors according to their direction.
  - d. Judge's Comment Sheets. Each judge shall submit a Comments Sheet for each contestant to receive after the pageant. Comments should be supportive and encouraging but have clear critique, suggestions for improvement, or reasoning behind low scoring. A copy of this Judge's Comment Sheet shall be given to the appropriate contestant after the pageant.
4. BALLOT PROCEDURES

Judges will cast separate ballots for each category of competition.

  - a. Judges must evaluate and assign point values for each contestant only for the category in which they are competing, and not from other categories or previous performances.
  - b. Judges must evaluate and assign points to each of the individual criteria separately for each category and use no other factors to influence point values assigned.
  - c. Judges must carefully and judiciously assign point values, giving as much consideration to the points given to less impressive competitors as to the most, since the total score from ALL ballots determines the winner. Should the next best contestant get only one point less or more than one for a particular criteria? Be consistent and fair in marking point differences between contestants.
5. Be aware of the value of each category: Judges' Interview – 10%, Creative Presentation – 30%, Talent – 40%, Evening Gown – 10%, Onstage Question – 10%

## **JUDGES' ETHICS**

1. Judges shall remain completely impartial and commit to judging without bias. A close, personal connection with any competitor shall disqualify a judge. If you cannot judge a contestant impartially, please do not accept the position of judge for this pageant.
2. Judges shall show no favoritism nor disapproval. Do not react as spectators, but remain "poker faced." Do not applaud or cheer for contestants: it is difficult to show appreciation to each in a truly equal manner.
3. Judges should not attend rehearsals at any time and should not talk with contestants before or during the pageant (except for Interview).
4. Judges shall not score the Official Judge's Ballot for any category until the last contestant has completed their performance in that category.
5. No cross-talk between judges about the pageant. Ballots only determine the winner by the numbers not consensus or group discussion.

6. All comments to contestants on the Comments Sheet should be honest but constructive. The contestants have each put a lot of effort into preparing their programs. They would appreciate knowing why they were or were not scored highest in a category. They would also like to know what they did that was most effective or impressive. Be honest with critique but be helpful with that criticism.
7. Judges shall not openly compare the winner or any contestants of this pageant to others.
8. If you disagree with a decision, do not do so until after you have left the Pageant. At that time, you may discuss it with the other judges. If you feel that the pageant results were not consistent with the rankings, discuss it with the Pageant Director. You may see ballots, Auditor's Worksheets, or the Auditor's Master Tally Sheet. Final adjudication of any problems will be resolved by the board of directors of Xclaim, Inc.
9. The Pageant Director will monitor ALL ballots under the supervision of the Auditors. Any judge or audience member who is found to be violating the above instructions, the code of ethics or the included Policies and Procedures shall be disqualified from judging and their ballots removed from the final tally.

## **2022 BG PRIDE PAGEANT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

### **JUDGES' PAPERWORK**

#### **JUDGES' NOTES**

Judges will be provided pages for each contestant as they appear individually in each phase of the competition. They will be most helpful in determining scoring at the end of each category. It is wiser to rely upon notes made at the time of performance, than on memory at the conclusion of the category. These notes are for your use, not for public distribution; however, you will have to turn them in to the Pageant Director at the end of the night. These notes may be seen by the Pageant Director and/or the board of directors of Xclaim, Inc.

#### **JUDGES' COMMENT SHEETS**

Judges will also be provided a Comment Sheet for each contestant. On this sheet, you write both compliments and constructive criticisms. Do not leave these Comment Sheets blank. They should contain information for the contestant to understand why you ranked them as indicated.

#### **JUDGES' BALLOTS**

The most important consideration in each phase of competition is that you cast your ballot for the most outstanding contestant in that single category. Concentrate on each of the criteria being described in that category and mark their scores accordingly, regardless of whether you feel your first place vote is going to the contestant that you would like to see capture the title or not. By following this procedure conscientiously, you will find that total points result in the best contestant being the winner.

For each category, Judge's Ballots will be divided into sub-categories for scoring, each with their own range of values. The contestant whom you feel has met the criteria the best gets your highest points for that criteria. Other contestants must be scored lower for that criteria based on how closely they came to the high-scorer. The contest to whom you give the highest points for one criteria does not have to receive the highest points for any other criteria in a category, but they may if they are also the most impressive for other criteria as well.

As soon as you have scored your Official Judge's Ballot and signed your name, you should record the points awarded to each contestant in each criteria on their Judge's Comment Sheet. Then submit your Ballot to the Auditors. It is very important to record the scores on the Judge's Comment Sheet' since this form shows contestants the score they received are accurate. If you change your vote or make an erasure, initial the same before your ballot is collected.

# SAMPLES OF JUDGES' PAPERWORK



**MISS BG PRIDE Official Judge's Ballot**  
**Category: PERSONAL INTERVIEW**  
**Judge: Joe Judger**

Assign a point value to each contestant for each of the scoring criteria. Point value must fall within the indicated point range for that criterion. The top scoring contestant for each criterion must receive more points than the other contestants in that one criterion. Subsequent contestants must be scored lower than the top contestant. No two contestants may be given the same score for the same criterion. Judges are encouraged to score high.

Point Range	PERSONAL INTERVIEW Scoring Criteria	Contestant 1 Annabella Alpha	Contestant 2 Betty Beta	Contestant 3 Girly Gamma	Contestant 4 Dolly Delta	Contestant 5 Erin Epsilon	Contestant 6 Zelda Zeta	Contestant 7 Emma Eta	Contestant 8 Theda Theta
1-20	<b>Confidence</b> - Eye contact, comfort, smile								
1-20	<b>Speaking Ability</b> - communicative, clarity, content, message								
1-20	<b>Professional Appearance</b> - neat, clean, appropriate								
1-20	<b>Platform Appropriateness</b> - relates to theme, represents LGBTQ+ issues								
1-20	<b>Overall Effectiveness</b> as Representative of 2022 BG Pride & LGBTQ+ Community								
5-25	<b>Administrative Point Deductions</b>								
5-100	<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>								

Judge's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



**JUDGE'S NOTES p1**

**CATEGORY: PERSONAL INTERVIEW**

CONTESTANT #1	CONTESTANT #2
CONTESTANT #3	CONTESTANT #4

## PAGEANT THEME

The theme of the 2022 Mr. and Miss BG Pride Pageants is "Unity in the Community: what WE can do in '22!"

## JUDGING CATEGORIES

### PERSONAL INTERVIEW (10% of Final Score or 100 Points)

Contestants will be individually interviewed by the panel of judges. After each brief interview, judges will be given a moment to take notes for that contestant before interviewing the next.

This category is unique in two or three ways: it is the only time judges personally interact with the contestants; and it is the only time judges see the contestants out of drag. For Mr. BG Pride, it is the only category where the audience does not participate. For both pageants, the audience does not get to observe interview.

<b>FUZION</b> presents MISS BG PRIDE 2022	<b>MISS BG PRIDE Judge: Jo Judger</b>	<b>Judge's Comment Sheet Contestant #1 Annabella Alpha</b>
<b>Personal Interview:</b>		Four Points: Confidence _____ Speaking Ability _____ Professional Appearance _____ Platform Appropriateness _____ Overall Effectiveness _____
<b>Creative Presentation:</b>		Four Points: Creativity _____ Presentation _____ Public Speaking _____ Appearance _____ Overall Effectiveness _____
<b>Talent Performance:</b>		Four Points: Talent _____ Presentation _____ Appearance _____ Impact _____
<b>Formal Wear:</b>		Four Points: Outfit _____ Presentation _____ Appearance _____ Impact _____
<b>Onstage Question:</b>		Four Points: Public Speaking _____ Content _____ Impact _____
Judge's Signature: _____		

This interview should be casual and relaxed; contestants have been asked to dress business-casual. Questions should focus on contestant's platform and community involvement but may also include some personal and/or professional history and other questions basic to an employment interview.

The interview category serves two basic purposes. First, the judges need to understand why each contestant wants to be Mr. or Miss BG Pride. Secondly, the interview gives the judges some insight into the character of each contestant. During the interview, judges have the opportunity to evaluate basic qualities such as intelligence, ability to communicate, attitude, composure, personality, mental alertness, vocabulary, general knowledge, personal appearance, sincerity, and manners.

Criteria for judging: Confidence, Speaking Ability, Professional Appearance, Platform Appropriateness, and Overall effectiveness as 2022 Mr. or Miss BG Pride and as a representative of the LGBTQ+ Community.

### **CREATIVE PRESENTATION** *(30% of Final Score or 300 Points)*

Each contestant will lip synch and/or model a costume inspired by the pageant theme. The category is timed (4 minutes max) but judges are not responsible for time-keeping. Contestants are not allowed to have onstage or backstage assistants during this category. This is a full-stage category with a white cyc background with colored lighting. Props may be used, but no set up time is given. Any props used should be judged.

After performance, each contestant will introduce themselves using an onstage microphone. Each contestant MUST say their name, contestant number and an explanation of how their costume was inspired by and/or represents the pageant theme.

Criteria for judging: Speaking Ability, Creativity, Make-Up, Hair, Costume Fit, Modeling Ability, Music Selection, Choreography/Staging, Audience Interaction, and Overall Effectiveness of Introduction, Costume and Presentation.

### **TALENT PERFORMANCE** *(40% of Final Score or 400 Points)*

Each contestant will present any talent of their choice as long as it will not cause injury or harm to themselves, the audience, any person, or to the venue. Lip-synch, dance, live vocals, live instrumentals, character performance, and more are all acceptable talents. One outlet is provided. No fire, no liquids, no glitter and no confetti are allowed. Two minutes for set-up and for strike are allowed, and the performance must be within four minutes. Judges are not responsible for time-keeping. Up to two assistants are allowed to move props, help with costumes or serve as back-up dancers. Any assistants used should be judged for effectiveness, costumes, and appropriateness. The highest talent rank will break any ties.

Criteria for judging: Talent Ability, Talent Selection, Make-Up, Hair, Costume, Fit, Music Selection (if used), Choreography/Staging, Audience Interaction, Overall Effectiveness of Props and/or Assistants (if used), and Overall Effectiveness of Talent Performance

### **FORMAL WEAR** *(10% of Final Score or 100 Points)*

Each contestant will model full-length formal wear of any color, style or fashion. Mr. contestants must wear a suit, and Miss contestants must wear an evening gown. One backstage assistant may be used to help change costume. Music is provided and no time limit is given. Contestants are encouraged to walk with the beat of the music. Stage points for stops, poses and turns will be marked on the floor. The MC will describe each contestant's formal wear and accessories and share their platform and a brief bio.

Criteria for judging: Formal Wear Selection, Formal Wear Fit, Modeling Ability, Poise, Make-Up, Hair, Accessories, Coordination of Appearance, Audience Interaction, and Overall Effectiveness of Formal Wear Modeling and Presentation

## **ONSTAGE QUESTION** *(10% of Final Score or 100 Points)*

As each contestant completes their formal wear modeling, they will be asked the same onstage question: “Why do you feel you are the best choice to be the 2022 Mr. or Miss BG Pride?” Contestants have been given this question in advance and should be prepared to give a thoughtful and well-spoken answer in the onstage microphone. The best answers will reflect the pageant theme and incorporate their platform. After answering the onstage question, the MC will ask each contestant for their closing statement. In the mic, each contestant must say their number, name and their brief closing statement.

Criteria for judging: Confidence, Speaking Ability, Sincerity, Appropriateness, Reflection of Pageant Theme, Audience Interaction, and Overall Effectiveness of Answer to Onstage Question and Closing Statement

## **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTESTANT RANKING/SCORING DEDUCTIONS OR DISQUALIFICATIONS**

The Pageant Director is responsible to ensure all contestants are following the pageant rules and expectations including time-keeping. Judges are not responsible for scoring deductions – score/rank as you see fit. Should deductions be appropriate, the Pageant Director must report those infractions directly to the Auditors. The following behaviors may cause the Pageant Director to report rank deductions to the auditors:

- Failure to submit music on time or mislabeled will result in one rank deduction per judge for Presentation and Talent categories or the equivalent point deductions.
- Failure to arrive on time for Check-In or the evening pageant will result in one rank deduction per judge to the final score or the equivalent point deductions.
- Over time limits for Creative Presentation and/or Talent will result in one rank deduction per judge for the applicable category or the equivalent point deduction(s).
- Discourteous or unprofessional behavior may result in one rank deduction per judge to the final total or point totals or disqualification.
- Music that contains explicit lyrics will result in one rank deduction per judge for that category or the equivalent point deductions.
- Music that contains racial or ethnic slurs will result in disqualification.
- Skin is allowed, but exposing too much is not; nudity will result in disqualification.
- Excessive alcohol consumption by contestants or assistants will result in disqualification.
- Using or distributing illegal substances by contestants or assistants will result in disqualification.
- Stealing or tampering with another person’s property will result in disqualification.

## **CONCLUSION**

Hopefully this Judge’s Handbook has been helpful for you to prepare to judge the Mr. and Miss BG Pride Pageant. As you see, your part is very important and our community thanks you for time and efforts. Finally, remember most of these contestants are hometown members of our community. They deserve to be treated equally and fairly and with respect and appreciation when you cast your ballot and make your comments. Remember that the contestants, sponsors, their friends and the community will judge the results of this pageant. Let honesty be your guide! Thanks again for your volunteerism and support. Contact your Pageant Director with any questions you may have and good luck!