

NLBRA of Michigan

2026-2027 Royalty Pageant Rules, Guidelines & Regulations

Contact Information:

Chelsea Smith – Royalty Coordinator

231-846-6104

jonesfarm2008@gmail.com

NLBRA of Michigan Royalty

The NLBRA of Michigan Royalty pageant will be held in conjunction with our 1st Rodeo of the 26/27 season Rodeo at Tom's Western Store in Ovid, MI. The Royalty Pageant will be held Friday August 7th at 6:00 pm with the coronation taking place during intermission on Saturday. There is a \$75.00 Sponsorship or financial obligation required, per the 2018 NLBRA of Michigan By-laws. This is due on Friday, 08/07/2026. The payment can be given to the Royalty Coordinator (RC).

Application and commitment that you are running is to be sent to Chelsea Smith by August 1st, 2026, via text or email.

The NLBRA of Michigan Royalty pageant is held annually to select three young ladies, one in each age group – Senior Queen (SQ), Junior Princess (JP) and Little Wrangler Princess (LWP), who will represent the NLBRA of Michigan throughout the year.

The NLBRA of Michigan Royalty Coordinator (RC) is responsible for the ceremonies and activities necessary to select the titleholders. The RC offers direction, support, and assistance to selected royalty during their reign.

Contestants shall agree to abide by all the rules and regulations set forth by the National Little Britches Rodeo Association and the NLBRA of Michigan Royalty Pageant. Breaking any eligibility rules &/or regulations will disqualify a contestant from the competition and cause forfeit of any prizes &/or titles. Selected NLBRA of Michigan Royalty are responsible for carrying the title proudly; fulfilling duties assigned by the NLBRA of Michigan Royalty Coordinators to the best of her ability. The NLBRA of Michigan Royalty Coordinators reserves the right to exercise its governing power, where questions may arise throughout the year.

Eligibility

1. Contestants in the NLBRA of Michigan Royalty Pageant must adhere to the NLBRA of Michigan By-Law, Article XIV – Royalty Contest
2. Contestants in the NLBRA of Michigan Royalty Pageant must adhere to NLBRA of Michigan By-Law, Article XIII, Section 3:
 - a. Contestants must participate in a minimum of three (3) rodeos in their event [an NLBRA event] and PAY ENTRIES for their events at the YEAR END RODEO to be eligible to receive year-end awards.
3. Contestants must compete in the age category they will be competing in the following year and must have at least one year of eligibility remaining in the NLBRA
4. A NLBRA of Michigan titleholder who violates any of these rules during her reign will relinquish all rights and privileges of her title at the request of the RC

Rules and Regulations

1. Contestants must conduct themselves in a proper, ladylike manner and portray high moral standards
2. Each contestant must complete and return the NLBRA of Michigan Royalty Application along with the \$75.00 Sponsorship/financial obligation to consider the application complete
3. Pageant judges may not be approached by a contestant or related individual with the intent to influence or harass. Action of this type can result in disqualification of the contestant at the discretion of the RC
4. Contestants should be at all scheduled events at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. Failure to do so may result in a deduction in the contestant score
5. Contestants must provide their own wardrobe and agree to follow the wardrobe guidelines and dress code. Each contestant should have at least one complete western dress outfit and one complete horsemanship outfit (see Wardrobe Guidelines)

Pageant Categories

The categories for judging:

- Horsemanship
- Appearance
- Personality
- Speech
- Interview

- Modeling
- Impromptu question
- Written Test

The overall winner will be crowned NLBRA of Michigan Royalty in her age division with the next highest scoring individual receiving First Runner-up. Other awards may also be given, such as, Congeniality or Horsemanship

Horsemanship

The purpose of this category is to select the young lady who rates the highest in:

1. Horsemanship
 - a. Control of mount
 - b. Proper arena etiquette
 - c. Cleanliness & proper tacking of horse
2. Balance
 - a. Ability and position of hands, feet and seat when riding at a reasonable rate of speed for activity.
3. Understanding leads and proper execution of specific patterns
4. Presentation ride (Royalty Run/Wave &/or carrying flag)
5. Showmanship
 - a. How the contestant projects her personality to the audience from horseback
6. Required attire for horsemanship is listed in the Wardrobe Guideline

Other considerations in Horsemanship include, but are not limited to the following:

- The understanding and skill of the contestant will be judged, NOT the horse
- Contestants should ride with one hand on the reins.
- Judges may talk to contestants, or ask horsemanship questions in the arena &/or during the interview
- Contestants will be asked to carry a flag. Flag boots should be used but will NOT be provided
- Contestants may be asked to ride on the rail at a walk, trot and lope in both directions as part of the contest. Other arena work may be requested at the discretion of the RC &/or judges

Appearance

The purpose of this category is to select the young lady who rates highest in:

1. Attractiveness
2. Grooming – include meticulous care in neatness and cleanliness in every detail
 - a. Hands
 - b. Fingernails

- c. Hair
 - d. Hat
 - e. Boots
 - f. Apparel
- 3. Posture
 - a. Carrying oneself straight and tall with confidence and poise
- 4. Poise and ladylike behavior in every situation
 - a. Handling every type of situation with grace, style and proper etiquette
 - b. Good sportsmanship both inside and outside of the arena at all times
- 5. Western Fashion Sense
 - a. Western outfits – should be fashionable, tasteful and properly fit for the contestant.
 - b. Attention will be paid to suitability of the outfit to the occasion.
 - c. Additional information in the Wardrobe Guidelines
 - i. Clothes need not be eccentric or expensive, but should be neat, clean, and appropriate.
- 6. Proper fit of clothing
 - a. Figure flattering styles altered for personal fit
 - b. Properly cleaned, fitted and shaped hats which flatter the contestant's face
 - c. Judges will look for versatility and imagination in the contestant's ability to carry out a "total look"
- 7. Knowledge of western clothing
 - a. Major western wear manufacturers
 - b. Trends in western wear industry
 - c. Western wear sponsors of the NLBRA

Personality

The purpose of this category is to select the young lady who rates highest in:

- 1. Intelligence and good common sense
- 2. Conversational ability in varied situations with an emphasis on correct grammar and enunciation
- 3. A good sense of humor
- 4. Self-confidence, high moral standards, sincerity and integrity
- 5. Genuine interest in people and consideration of others
- 6. Self-projection, whether from horseback or on stage
 - a. The ability to project one's personality in any situation
- 7. Positive outlook on life
- 8. Promptness and cooperation
 - a. If a contestant fails to arrive on time for any pageant event, she may be penalized &/or disqualified at the RC discretion (Arrive 15 min early)
- 9. Maturity
- 10. Educational background and goals, as well as career goals

Speech

The purpose of this category is to select the young lady who rates highest in:

1. Ability to communicate with an audience using appropriate and correct language, as well as good grammar
2. Ability to be prepared and deliver speech without the use of props
3. Self-projection on stage
 - a. Delivery
 - b. Voice
 - c. Manner
 - d. Use of microphone
4. Ability to present age-appropriate speech from memory
5. Other considerations:
 - a. Speeches should be NO MORE than 2 ½ minutes in length. 5 points from each judge will be deducted for speeches longer than 3 minutes and less than 2 minutes
 - b. Speeches should be memorized
 - i. No props or visual aids will be allowed
6. **SPEECH TOPIC:**
 - Little Wrangler**—Who is your Rodeo role model and why? How do they influence what you do at Rodeos or practice?
 - Junior** – Why is sportsmanship important in rodeo? Share examples of how good sportsmanship strengthens the rodeo community.
 - Senior**- What is the biggest challenge facing the sport of rodeo, and how can we help solve it? How can rodeo organizations attract the next generation of competitors?

****If you have another speech topic you would like to use that relates to rodeo submit that topic to the coordinator for approval****

Modeling

The purpose of this category is to judge appearance, coordination, and ability to present oneself on stage. Routines will be limited to 2 minutes. Modeling walk should coordinate with and time to contestants written bio, that will be read during each contestant's presentation

Written Test

The purpose of this category is to select the young lady who rates highest in knowledge:

1. Written test worth 50 points of total score

2. Questions will be taken from the NLBRA Rule Book, the NLBRA Website, NLBRA of Michigan By-laws and current events in the Rodeo Industry
3. Topics can include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Current Board Members (National and Michigan)
 - b. NLBRA rules
 - c. Current royalty
 - d. Sponsors
4. Questions may include:
 - a. True/false
 - b. Multiple choice
 - c. Short answer
 - d. Fill in the blank
5. Arrangements can be made at the discretion of the RC to have an independent 3rd party read the questions to a contestant if they are not able to do so themselves because of contestants age/or reading ability (Notification must be made in advance of the contest)

Judging

The NLBRA of Michigan Royalty Coordinator will use the following procedures for selecting judges and for overall judging:

1. Judges are selected for their experience and qualifications
2. All judges will be used to judge all categories:
 - a. Appearance
 - b. Personality
 - c. Impromptu
 - d. Speech
 - e. Interview
 - f. Horsemanship
3. All decisions of the judges are final

Breaking of ties

A tie for any of the NLBRA of Michigan Royalty Categories will be broken by the horsemanship scores; i.e., the contestant with the highest horsemanship score will receive the higher ranking. A tie in horsemanship will be broken by the test score

Wardrobe Guidelines

1. Speech and Modeling
 - a. Formal outfit
 - i. Western style dress or skirt combination
 - ii. NO PANTS
2. Interview
 - a. Any outfit that is sold in retail store and manufactured by our current sponsors recommended
 - b. It may NOT be embroidered, embellished or altered in any way, other than for fit
3. Horsemanship
 - a. Any color jeans and any long-sleeved horsemanship shirt
4. Coronation
 - a. Formal outfit
 - b. NO PANTS

Royalty Scoring

There will be three judges chosen and approved by the NLBRA of Michigan Royalty Coordinator. The contest winners will be determined by the total of the judge's scores and the test score. The contestant with the highest score in each age division will be crowned the winner

The categories for judging are as follows:

1. Modeling – 25 points per judge for a total of 75 points
2. Speech – 50 points per judge for a total of 150 points
3. Impromptu question – 50 per judge for a total of 150 points
4. Interview – 100 points per judge for a total of 300 points
5. Personality – 25 points per judge for a total of 75 points
6. Appearance – 50 points per judge for a total of 150 points
7. Horsemanship – 100 points per judge for a total of 300 points
 - a. Pattern – 75 points per judge
 - b. Flag pass – 25 points per judge
8. Written test – 50 points total

This allows for a total possible of 1250 points per contestant including all three judges and the written test

Reigning Royalty Responsibilities

1. Maintain status as a member in good standing
2. Personal appearances – Strongly encouraged, but not limited to: These will be discussed at a later time
 - a. Michigan Equine Legislative days in Lansing
 - b. Spartan Stampede
 - c. Michigan Horse Expo
 - d. Local County Fair
 - e. Tom's Western Store Open House
 - f. Local tack shops
 - g. Parades
 - h. Local rodeos
 - i. Horse shows
 - j. Schools
 - k. Nursing homes
 - l. Hospitals
3. NLBRA of Michigan rodeos
 - a. Grand Entry
 - b. Banner set-up and tear down
 - c. Awards presentations
4. Proper maintenance of their Association-owned crown, wear sash and crown at each Grand Entry.
5. Maintain contact with the Royalty Coordinators on a monthly basis

There are 3 positions and these appearances and responsibilities may be divided up among the Royalty. No one reigning Royalty and their family shall be responsible for all appearances or obligations.

As a Royalty Representative of the NLBRA of Michigan, you are an ambassador of the association, and you will be representing the Association at all times!!

Don't hesitate to contact the Royal Coordinator for any questions or concerns!

Talk to current Royalty, use their knowledge to help shape your experience!!!