

HOUSE RULES 2021

1 MEMBERSHIP FEES

- 1.1 Membership fees are set and approved each year and become effective from the Annual General Meeting.
- 1.2 New Zealand Country Music Entertainer of the Year Award **Entry Fees** are set and approved each year and become effective from the Annual General Meeting. Upon payment of the fee an Award will be **sanctioned** by the NZCMA.
- 1.3 **ALL** fees to be paid by 31 July of that year.

2 MEETING DATES

- 2.1 That the Board of Management Quarterly meetings be held in February, May, August and November. Management Committee to decide actual dates.
- 2.2 That the AGM of the Association shall be held no later than the month of June each year. Date to be decided by Board of Members at the February Quarterly meeting.
- 2.3 That the location of these meetings be at a place so instructed by the Management Committee.
- 2.4 That the minutes of all meetings of the Association, be circulated no later than six (6) weeks AFTER each meeting.

3 SERGEANT AT ARMS

- 3.1 That any member of the Management Committee shall conduct a Sheriff's session at the meeting of the Board of Members.
- 3.2 A small fine shall be imposed for minor misdemeanours.

4 ACTING AS REFEREE

The Association shall, not be expected to act as referee in any disputes.

5 DIRECTORY / HANDBOOK

Update of Club contacts, Operations, Awards and available personnel be published directly on website.

RULES OF ENTRY TO AN NZCMA AFFILIATED AWARD

1. All material performed in these Awards must be fit within the Genre of Country Music . The Genre description on Page 10 of the House Rules to be used as a guideline for the Convenor and Awards Committee on determining the eligibility of songs entered.
2. The club that the entrant is representing must be affiliated to the NZCMA 3 months prior to the affiliated award.
3. **Current Overall winner of Awards** eligible for the NZCMA Inc. Country Music Entertainer of the Year Award, are eligible to enter Awards but only in a different category to what they have already qualified. (Categories defined as Solo, Instrumental, Duo or Group)
4. **SECTION AGES**
 - JUNIOR**
Under THIRTEEN (13) years as at the FIRST (1) Day of August, of the current circuit year.
 - INTERMEDIATE**
Must be THIRTEEN (13) years but under the age of EIGHTEEN (18) years as at the FIRST (1) Day of August, of the current circuit year.
 - SENIOR**
EIGHTEEN (18) years or over, as at the FIRST (1) Day of August, of the current circuit year.
 - VETERAN**
FIFTY---FIVE (55) years of age, as at the FIRST (1) Day of August, of the current circuit year.
The veteran must decide whether they will compete as either a Veteran or a Senior for the Current Circuit Year.
5. Where stage names are used full names must be advised on the entry form. Once accepted, no substitutes are permitted, but members of a group may be less than originally advised, but not less than three (3) members.
6. Contestants must be amateur as 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 is defined as not deriving a major portion of income from performing music).
7. Instrumentalists using electronic instruments e.g. keyboards, must not utilize memory banks for pre – programmed automated playing.
8. Competitors are restricted to their respective age groups with exception of when mixed sections are provided. (These mixed aged sections are not eligible for overall)
9. Contestants eligible for the New Zealand Country Music Entertainer of the Year Awards must abide by the Rules of Entry to the New Zealand Country Music Entertainer of the Year Awards, as defined by the NZCMA Inc
10. Any violation of the above rules may result in disqualification.
11. In the event of a dispute or interpretation of the rules,
the Convenors decision will be binding on all parties.

RULES OF ENTRY TO AN NZCMA AFFILIATED AWARD **FOR SONGWRITERS**

- 1 Open to all age groups.
- 2 The club that the entrant is representing must be affiliated to the NZCMA Inc. at least 3 months prior to the award.
- 3 A recording of the Song or tune to be sent electronically and accompanied by words and chord notations on separate sheets of paper.
- 4 This section is not eligible for the Overall Award, but the winning song of the said award will be represented at Country Music Entertainer of the Year. (Songwriter Section)
- 5 Joint entries are acceptable, providing entrants comply with Award rules.
- 6 Only song / tunes that have not been recorded for sale commercially are eligible for entry.
- 7 Entrants must be amateur as defined by the NZCMA Inc. rules of entry in the NZCMA Inc. Country Music Entertainer of the Year Award.
- 8 Songs or tune must not have won an Affiliated Award in the past.
- 9 Song must be accompanied by one instrument only.

HOUSE RULES FOR SONGWRITERS

- 1 Songwriter finalists will have the option to have their song performed at the Final Concert.

HOUSE RULES FOR NZCMA AFFILIATED AWARDS

- 1 The entry form must be signed and verified by the President or Secretary of the represented clubs after it has been filled in.
- 2 Backing bands will be available for auditions in all sections, no other accompanist allowed unless contestant plays own instrument. Contestants are required to provide four (4) copies of fully chorded song sheets, named and attached to a firm backing with non-reflective surface.
- 3 Contestants to perform one item completely in the Auditions. Finalists must perform a different item to that of the Auditions.
- 4 Contestants to report to official registration desk at least thirty (30) minutes before their advised audition time. Contestants not available when called may be disqualified.
- 5 Judging will be on Musical Ability, Presentation and Entertainment Value. Any count back on a selected category. i.e. Musical ability.
- 6 Finalists must attend rehearsals when required and may be accompanied by one (1) representative where applicable.
- 7 The Awards Committee has the right to limit the number of entries, they may add to, combine, or delete from the programme where necessary and beneficial to the majority.
- 8 The Convener must be consulted prior to any recall being performed.
- 9 The organisers reserve the right to record and broadcast any or all the Auditions or Finals, subject to copyright conditions.
- 10 Contestants or their parents/guardians will give a signed undertaking to return any/all trophies in good condition when requested to do so.
- 11 Contestant's 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.
- 12 The organisers reserve the right to refuse admission to any function. No alcohol or illegal drugs are permitted in the halls or backstage.
- 13 Contestants must not contact judges or scrutineers with the intent to influence decisions or allocation of points.
- 14 That, entrants in the U-18 section at Awards are eligible for the Overall Award in their own categories e.g. Junior or Intermediate. NB. This is optional to all affiliated Awards.
- 15 **Mixed age** Duo / Groups are eligible to enter and be eligible to win the Overall on the Award Circuit BUT CANNOT in this category go through to the Entertainer of the Year
- 16 One scrutineer Two (2) Collators be available always

CATEGORIES FOR AWARDS

| | MINIMUM | OPTIONAL |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------|
| VETERAN 55+ (see Rule 4 Section Ages) | | |
| Solo Male Vocal | | |
| Female Vocal | | |
| Gospel | Solo Vocal | Open Vocal |
| Western or Old time | Solo Vocal | Open Vocal |
| Duo / Group | Duo / Group Vocal Group Open | Duo Open |
| SENIOR | | |
| Solo Male Vocal | Solo Vocal | Male Solo |
| Female Vocal | Solo Vocal | Female Solo |
| Gospel | Solo Vocal | Open Vocal |
| Western or Old time | Solo Vocal | Open Vocal |
| Duo / Group | Duo / Group Vocal Group Open | Duo Open |
| OPTIONAL CATEGORIES | | |
| Traditional | Solo Vocal | Open Vocal |
| Yodelling | Solo Vocal | Open Vocal |
| Instrumental | Solo | Open |
| New Country | Solo | |
| Country Rock | Solo | |
| JUNIOR / INTERMEDIATE | | |
| Solo Combined | Male Female | |
| Duo / Group | Duo / Group | Duo |
| Group | | |
| Gospel | Under – 18 Intermediate | Junior |
| Western or Old time | Under – 18 Intermediate | Junior |
| OPTIONAL | | |
| Instrumental | Under – 18 Intermediate | Junior |
| New Country | Under – 18 Intermediate | Junior |
| Country Rock | Under – 18 Intermediate | Junior |
| Original Song | Open | |

(Song must have FIRST been released in the last THREE (3) years).

Under 18 Sections winners points will be allocated to respective age groups for consideration of the Junior or Intermediate Overall / Runner--Up Overall.

Mixed age Duo / Group This is optional. If contestants want to enter in the NZCMA Inc. Country Music Entertainer of the Year Award, then contestants must stay with their respective age groups.

NOTE: --- Under – 18 sections or the optional sections can be solo or open Western section can be acoustic or full backing.

RULES OF ENTRY TO THE **NZCMA Inc. COUNTRY MUSIC ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR**

1. All Material performed on these Awards must fit within the Genre of Country Music. The Genre description on page 10 of the House Rules is to assist the Convenor and Awards Committee on determining the eligibility of songs entered.
2. Entrants must sign a declaration to abide by the rules of this contest and agrees to assist in the promotion of the same.
3. The club that the entrant is representing must be affiliated to the NZCMA 3 months prior to the affiliated award
4. Entrants must qualify within the following age criteria:
 - JUNIOR:**
Must be under the age of THIRTEEN (13) years as at the FIRST (1) Day of AUGUST, of the current circuit year.
 - INTERMEDIATE:**
Must be THIRTEEN but under the age of EIGHTEEN (18) years as at the FIRST (1) Day of August, of the current circuit year.
 - SENIOR:**
Must be EIGHTEEN (18) years or over, as at the FIRST (1) Day of August, of the current circuit year.
 - VETERAN:**
Must be Fifty-Five (55) years an over, as at the FIRST (1) Day of August, of the current circuit year.
5. Entrants must be Amateur as defined by the NZCMA Inc. and not contracted to a recording company or receive a major part of their income in the last FIVE (5) years from these activities.
6. In the event of an entrant releasing a recording for commercial purposed after qualifying and prior to this event, then that item shall not be eligible for performance on the NZCMA Inc. Country Music Entertainer of the Year Award.
7. Entrants to attend rehearsals as and when required and may be accompanied by ONE (1) guardian or representative.
8. Entrants may appear ONCE (1) in any category. i.e. SOLO, DUO or GROUP.
9. Entrants may have the use of official backing band and vocal harmonies as supplied by the organizing committee. No other instrument or voices will be permitted, unless self accompanied.
10. DUO or GROUPS, performing in NZCMA Inc. Country Music Entertainer of the Year Awards, must fall into the same age category as stated under RULE 4 of the above.
11. Entrant's equipment is used and stored at their own risk. The NZCMA Inc. and the NZCMA Inc. Country Music Entertainer of the Year organizers will not be responsible for the loss / damage / theft of personal effects and / or property.
12. Persons found using drugs, alcohol or guilty of offensive behaviour will be disqualified.

NZCMA SERVICE AWARD

The New Zealand Country Music Association Inc. badge to be retained as is with a bar attached.

The words "**SERVICE AWARD**" to be inscribed on the bar.

A **FIVE** (5) year bar can be applied for every consecutive period after that.

ELGIBILITY

1. To have been a member of a Country Music Club or the New Zealand Country Music Association Incorporated for not less than **TEN** (10) years.
2. To have worked and supported said Club / Organization throughout the time of the nominated person's membership.
3. Open to individuals from Affiliated Clubs, Affiliated Awards, Affiliated Festivals and Individual Members
4. A resumé on the possible recipient must be included and endorsed by **THREE** (3) Management Committee Members.

NON-ELIGIBILITY

A person/s already a recipient of the NZCMA Inc. Life Membership is not eligible for the above award.

GINJO AWARD

In 1986 and on the fifteenth anniversary of the NZCMA, I wish to establish an annual **Founders Award**, to be known as the **Ginjo Award**.
(The name is a combination of Ginger and Joe)

I request it be awarded to the one person or group whom the association feels have done the most, during the year, to keep the organization going or promoted, as originally intended. There are always individuals who spend endless hours working for an organization and never seem to get any thanks or recognition for it. I hope this award will help to correct some of this.

It is also my sincere desire that this award will serve as a new goal or challenge for all of you to work even harder for the NZCMA and possibly this award will be yours someday, on an individual basis.
Ginger Mede

Presentation of the Award

- a) All nominations must be received 14 days prior to a Quarterly Meeting of the Management committee including a resume of the nominee(s)
- b) That the Management Committee be empowered to select the nominee to receive the said Award.
- c) This award to be presented at a Quarterly ,Special or Annual General Meeting or at an appropriate event befitting the occasion.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

1. Management Committee meetings.
 - a) To be held on the same day as quarterly meetings.
 - b) Special meetings to be held when deemed necessary
 - c) Email and Messenger to be used for special urgent business

2. All Management Committee to be fully informed of all issues.
Communication via email in the first instance.

3. Whilst representing NZCMA Inc.
Financial Allowances to be reimbursed for the following:
 - a) Accommodation charges, if any, must be pre- approved with maximum allowance of \$150/night
 - b) Meals to be at own cost.
 - c) Travel costs to be reimbursed on an “Actual and Reasonable” basis.

Notification and approval are required before reimbursement of any financial expenses.

4. Nominations for Life Membership, Ginjo Award or Service Award will be decided by Management Committee.
 - a) Upon written request by 3 members of a Club or Region or Life Member
 - b) Or by the Management Committee.

5. At least one member of the Management Committee should attend every NZCMA Inc. affiliated Award on the circuit per calendar year, if possible.

6. When a Management Committee member is unavailable, away / on leave for a period, advise the remainder of the Management Committee in case of emergencies.

7 ELECTION OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- a) The positions of President, Treasurer and three committee members be elected in odd years.

- b) The positions of Vice President, Secretary, Publicity/Marketing Officer and two committee members be elected in even years

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE COUNTRY MUSIC GENRE

1. One key feature of Country Music is the use of a story on which to build a song. The narrative is extremely important in nearly every type of Country Music and it provides a strong and compelling element that binds the genre together. What you often hear in many country songs are very personal stories or accounts of love, loss, and experience that resonates with those who listen to the tracks. A Country Music song should have a strong story line.
2. The song should have a simple and memorable chorus, which supports the story line and is one reason so many people find it easy to recall and sing a good country song.
3. Identifiable instrumentation. Organs, orchestras, strings, wind instruments are not normally country. Guitars, drums, banjos, fiddles, pedal steel guitars, harmonicas are. There are exceptions of course but instruments should be played in a country manner
4. At its heart are simple chords progressions, repetitive rhythms, and catchy riffs that accompany the singer. There are so many country songs with straightforward chord structures that are lifted by great vocal harmonies, and extremely strong choruses. It is the emotional content of many Country hits that generates its lasting appeal and singles it out as one of the most enjoyable genres of music to listen to. Musicians will talk about the “feel” of the song in reference to Country Music.
5. The multiple styles within this genre can render sounds that reflect the most traditional forms of music spanning to popular modern arrangements. As one listens, the basic core formula, which consists of a straightforward chord progression, a resonating chorus or bridge, and a memorable story, will most often be the foundation of country music songs.
6. The original recording and release of the song should reflect that it was of Country Music genre.

Sources

<https://www.cmuse.org/characteristics-of-country-music/>

<https://www.britannica.com/art/country-music>

<https://ourpastimes.com/characteristics-of-country-western-music-12328825.html>