

NZ COUNTRY MUSIC STAR AWARDS

RULES OF ENTRY 2020

1. **ALL** Songs entered in these awards **MUST** be of **COUNTRY ORIGIN**. All songs will be vetted and if considered to be not suitable you will be notified before the awards so you may submit a different song.
2. All contestants must be a current financial member of a New Zealand Country Music Association (NZCMA) affiliated club at least three (3) months prior to these awards.
3. **Section Ages** (as at the 1st day of August at the commencement of the current NZCMA circuit year). (ie. August 1st 2020)
JUNIOR – Under thirteen (13) years of age
INTERMEDIATE – Thirteen (13) years but under eighteen (18)
SENIOR – Eighteen years (18) of age and over
VETERAN – Fifty Five (55) years of age and over
4. **Section Rules**
COUNTRY ROCK - Song can be of any age BUT must have a “rock feel”.
COUNTRY GOSPEL - Song must have a “Christian” theme, may **NOT** be a hymn, Christian Contemporary Music is acceptable.
NEW COUNTRY - Song must have been **FIRST** released **WITHIN THE LAST 5 YEARS**. Re-released songs will not qualify.
WESTERN - Song must have a “Western” theme, e.g. Cowboys, rodeos, the prairie.
NZ COUNTRY SONG - First written by or released by a NZ country music artist.
SONGWRITING - entries **MUST** be the contestants own original work. If a song is co-written, **ALL** co-writers must be qualifying members of a NZCMA affiliated club or qualifying individual members of the NZCMA. Only original songs that **HAVE NOT** won an overall title at another award are eligible. **Send 1 x lyric sheet with your entry**
5. All entry fees must accompany the official entry form. There will be **NO** refunds, please **DO NOT** post cash.
6. Your entry will **NOT** be accepted until all sections of the entry form are completed
7. You may only enter once per category (eg. you may not be a member of a Duo and a Group or enter Senior & Veteran sections)
8. Contestants are restricted to their respective age groups.
9. Contestants must be considered amateur, and **NOT** be contracted to a recording company **OR** have received a major part of their income in the last five (5) years from these activities.
10. Where stage names are used, full names must be advised on the entry form.
11. If part of a group full names must be advised on the entry form. Substitutes are permitted. The make-up of the group maybe less than originally advised, but not less than three (3) members.
12. **NO HARMONY BACKING ALLOWED**, unless sung by members of a DUO/GROUP entry. No other musical enhancements are allowed.
13. Duo/Groups **MUST** contain harmony parts.

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14. Entrant'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.
15. The organisers reserve the right to refuse admission. No alcohol, smoking or illegal drugs are permitted on the premises.
16. Contestants must not contact judges or scrutineers with intent to influence decisions.
17. Overall Winners in all sections, Junior, Intermediate, Senior, Veteran and Songwriter are eligible to enter these awards in those sections the following year providing their entry complies with Rule 3.
18. The awards committee has the right to limit the number of entries. They may add or delete from the programme where necessary as beneficial to the majority. No late entries will be accepted.
19. The entry form **MUST** be signed and verified by an executive member of the represented mother club after it has been filled in. When a duo or group enters representing different clubs, the entry form must be verified by both the respective mother clubs.
20. Audition times will be drawn by ballot and advised after closing date of entries.
21. Backing bands will be available for all auditions in all sections, no other accompanist is allowed unless the contestant plays their own instrument.
22. Contestants are required to provide five (5) copies of fully chorded song sheets, named and attached to firm backing with non-reflective surface.
23. Contestants to perform one (1) item completely in auditions. Finalists **MUST** perform a **DIFFERENT** song in the finals concert. **BOTH** audition and finals songs **MUST** be entered on entry form.
24. Judging will be done at both auditions and finals
25. **Contestants MUST report to official registration desk and hand in all chord charts for auditions no later 10.00am on audition day.**
After this time registration will be closed and you **WILL** be disqualified.
26. You **MUST** report to the stage manager 20 minutes prior to your performance time. Contestants not available when called may be disqualified.
27. Judging mark on musical ability, presentation & entertainment value. In auditions a tie break mark will be used.
28. The Convenor **MUST** be consulted prior to any recall being performed.
29. The organisers reserve the right to record and broadcast any or all of the either the auditions or finals, subject to copyright where applicable.
30. When signing the entry form you are undertaking to return perpetual trophies in good condition when requested to do so.
31. Any violation of the above may result in disqualification. In the event of a dispute or misinterpretation of the rules, the Convenor's decision will be binding on all parties