

Simcoe Rising Star Participant Agreement

This Participant Agreement governs participation in SIMCOE RISING STAR 2026

(the “Competition”) between **Simcoe Rising Star, produced, founded, and owned by Karen Ritchie** (the “Organizer”) and the participant identified below (the “Participant”).

**Welcome to Simcoe Rising Star 2026 Being held at Traditions Banquet Hall at Sheba Shrine.
Location: 142 John St, Barrie, Ontario L4N2L2**

1. Parties and Participant Details

Item	Details
Competition name	Simcoe Rising Star
Organizer name	Simcoe Rising Star, produced, founded, and owned by Karen Ritchie
Organizer Email and Phone	simcoedreambig@gmail.com Phone: 416-879-5986 Address: Barrie, Ontario
Participant legal name	
Preferred, Stage Name, Band Name or Dance Duo/Dance Club	
Participant address and contact	Address: Phone: Email:
Emergency contact/ Or Guardian if participant is under 16 Years old	Name: Relationship: Email: Phone:
Participant date of birth	

Simcoe Rising Star, produced, founded, and owned by Karen Ritchie (the “Organizer”) and the Participant may each be referred to as a “Party” and together as the “Parties.”

Competition Period and Eligibility

The Competition begins on **Sunday, September 13, 2026** and ends on **Saturday, October 24, 2026**. The applicable time zone is **[Eastern]**. First Auditions Sept 13, 2026, Semi-Finals Oct 4, 2026, and the Top 12 Grand Finale Gala Oct 24, 2026. Participant must meet the eligibility requirements stated in the official Competition materials, including: minimum or maximum age, residency, affiliation, or other requirements. Participant confirms that the information provided to the Organizer is complete and accurate. Participant must remain eligible throughout the Competition. If Participant is a minor, a parent or legal guardian must sign this Agreement and provide any required consent.

3. Category Selection

Participant must select one primary category unless the Organizer confirms in writing that more than one category is permitted. If selecting “Band” or “Dancers/Dance Club” All band and dance members must fill out their own contract. Please put the name of your Band or Dance Duo/Club above under “Stage Name/Band Name”

- ☐ Band
- ☐ Dancer/Dance Club
- ☐ Comedian
- ☐ DJ
- ☐ Singer

Selected category: [Singer / Band / Dancer/Dance Duo or Club / Comedian / DJ]. For a band or Dance Group, All Members Must fill out their own contracts.

4. Requirement Registration Submission	Competition Details
Registration deadline	September 2, 2026 to be guaranteed to go in front of the judges for first auditions. If paying at the door on Sept 13, 2026 \$50 non refundable at the door by 3 Pm and no guarantee to see the judges. (We suggest registering by Sept 2, 2026)
Entry fees First Auditions - \$25 (Includes Lunch) For Semi Finals - Registration Fee (Pizza Lunch) this is not an option this must be paid. Hair, Make-Up, Photography, and T-shirts are optional. However we do recommend getting Hair, Make Up, and Head Shots (Photography) done. This is a great red carpet experience for participants and it helps with continuity for our Top 12 Poster for Gala Finale. <u>The Top 12 Finalist chosen will also have their Hair and Make Up done for Finale Night at no cost and the top 12 finalists also receive their Gala Ticket for Free (Includes Dinner)</u>	First Auditions \$25 *** Semi Finalist: \$25 - Registration Fee (Includes Pizza Lunch) *** Semi Finalist with Registration Fee and Photography (Head Shots) \$50 Semi Finalists with Registration Fee, Hair & Make-Up, and Head Shots \$75 Semi Finalist with Registration Fee, Hair & Make-Up, Head Shots, and SRS T-shirt \$100 PAYMENT FOR SEMI-FINALS MUST BE PAID NO LATER THAN MONDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2026. WE NEED TO SCHEDULE TIME SLOTS FOR HAIR & MAKE-UP AND PHOTOGRAPHY FOR EACH PARTICIPANT. Please send via e-transfer to: simcoedreambig@gmail.com Use participants last name as password. You will send either \$25, \$50, \$75, or \$100
Required submission materials	Bring any accompaniment tracks, sheet music, or any supporting materials you need. Including Blue Tooth Audio, You Tube Audio, Spotify Apps, Back Up Musicians, Instruments, Electrical cords, Extra Microphone, Props. We suggest having your music on more than one app and device. If you have it on your phone or laptop be sure to bring your chargers.

Participant must submit truthful information, complete materials, and any releases or permissions requested by the Organizer. Participant must keep contact information current and promptly report any change that may affect eligibility or participation. Participant is responsible for meeting all deadlines and retaining copies of submitted materials. The Organizer may reject an incomplete, late, unsafe, or technically unusable submission in accordance with the published Competition rules.

5. Rules and Judging Criteria

Participant agrees to follow this Agreement, the official Competition rules, venue requirements, technical instructions, and reasonable directions from the Organizer, staff, judges, and event personnel. Category-specific rules are:

- 1) Keep Your performance under 6 mins, judges may cut your performance off if it's longer and/or the judges may take off points in the scoring judging system. For the Top 12 Grand Finale Gala Participants may have up to 7 Mins for their performance.
 - 2) You must bring any accompaniment tracks, sheet music, or any supporting materials you need. All human accompaniments must be documented for us on our registration list. Any additional people/accompaniments that are added to the performance that have not paid fees do not have tickets for Gala Dinner Finale Night or Pizza Lunches but these can be purchased by them.
 - 3) This competition is open to anyone 6 years of age and up.
 - 4) No participant can engage in or take on any gigs, employment, public opportunities, other musical contest, or contracts with any ties to the Judges, Traditions Banquet Hall at Sheba Shrine, Sponsors, Volunteers, Simcoe Rising Star team, or the Simcoe Rising Star Organizer between Sept 13 2026 - Oct 25 2026. This will forfeit and disqualify your participation. Simcoe Rising Star strives for fairness and a clean competition.
- Each Category will be scored from 1-10. 1=Needs improvement / 5=Good / 10=Outstanding

Criterion		Description	Weight
Talent & skill		Ability, technique, and overall performance quality.	___/10
Stage Presence & Confidence		Connection with the audience and command of the stage.	___/10
Originality & Creativity		Unique style, personality, and creativity.	___/10
Entertainment Value		Engagement, enjoyment, and ability to captivate the audience.	___/10
Preparation & Professionalism		Overall effort, presentation, and readiness	___/10

TOTAL SCORE: ____/50

OPTIONAL TIE-BREAKER SCORE: Would you pay to see this act perform again? ____/10

This gives a potential total score of 60 points if we need an additional way to break ties.

The Organizer (Karen Ritchie) will identify the judges, the scoring process, and the tie-breaking method. Judging decisions made under the published process are final. The only one decision that can be made if applicable is that the organizer (Karen Ritchie) is allowed to use one “Golden Buzzer/Golden Ticket” during Semi Finals process that could potentially bring the top 12 to a top 13. This is not always the case. However, it has happened in past competitions.

6. Schedules and Performance Obligations

Activity	Date, Time, and Location
First Auditions	Sunday Sept 13, 2026 - Traditions - 1 Pm - when all registered participants have been seen.
Semi Finals	Sunday Oct 4,2026 - Traditions - 1 Pm - Once all Semi finalists have been seen.
Top 12 Finalist Gala Finale	Saturday Oct 24,2026 - Traditions - 6 Pm - Midnight
This Contract must be submitted by email or in person before your first audition on Sept 13, 2026	Before You perform on Sept 13,2026

Participant must be available for the dates and times assigned by the Organizer, arrive by [arrival time or required lead time provided by the organizer or the Simcoe Rising Star team] Complete any soundcheck or technical check, and perform within the time limit of organizers instructions. Participant must provide or request approval for any equipment, backing tracks, instruments, costumes, props, or special technical requirements by 1 week prior to Semi Finals and 10 Days for Top 12 Gala Finale Night. If Participant cannot attend or perform as scheduled, Participant must notify the Organizer as soon as possible by email: simcoedreambig@gmail.com Failure to attend, late arrival, or failure to meet performance requirements may result in removal from a round or disqualification under the published rules.

7. Original Work, Permissions, and Intellectual Property

Participant represents that each submitted or performed work is original to Participant or is used with all permissions required for the Competition. Participant must identify any third-party music, lyrics, recordings, choreography, scripts, characters, images, samples, trademarks, or other protected material and provide proof of permission if requested. **Live Performances are fine.** Participant must not submit or perform material that knowingly infringes another person's rights. For a band or group, Participant confirms that all members, writers, performers, producers, and other contributors have agreed to the submission and performance. Participant retains ownership of Participant's original work. Participant grants the Organizer and The Simcoe Rising Star Team the limited rights stated in this Agreement to administer, judge, document, broadcast, and promote the Competition. Participant is responsible for claims, losses, or costs arising from a breach of these representations.

8. Music, Image, and Publicity Permissions

Participant grants the Organizer Karen Ritchie and Simcoe Rising Star permission, to take photos, video, and create documentation for printed/written articles and/or used on social media platforms from Sept 13, 2026 Oct 24, 2027 permission to record, reproduce, edit, display, perform, stream, and share Participant's Competition-related performance and submitted materials solely for Competition administration, judging, documentation, archival, and publicity purposes. Participant also permits the Organizer to use Participant's name, stage name, voice, photograph, video image, biography, category, and approved statements for those purposes. These may all be used publicly, across social media platforms and/or on the website. The Organizer may identify Participant as a Competition entrant, finalist, or winner when accurate. Participant confirms that Participant has authority to provide permissions for any other person appearing or performing in submitted materials and will obtain any required consent before submission. Participant understands that approved recordings or publicity may be shared with audiences, media, sponsors, platforms, or service providers identified here: Simcoe Rising Star Social Media, Karen Ritchie's Social Media, Judges Social Media, Traditions Social Media, Chosen Charities Social Media. Simcoe Rising Star's Website. Sponsors Social Media.

9. Conduct and Safeguarding Expectations

- Participant must act respectfully and safely toward other participants, staff, judges, volunteers, audiences, venue personnel, and members of the public. **Respect.** Do not harass, threaten, bully, discriminate against, stalk, or abuse any person.
- **Safe content and behavior.** Do not perform or submit dangerous acts, unlawful material, hateful content, or content prohibited by the venue or the published rules.
- **Venue compliance.** Follow safety instructions, access controls, equipment requirements, and directions from authorized event personnel.
- **Substances and weapons.** Comply with all applicable laws and venue rules concerning alcohol, drugs, weapons, and prohibited items.
- **Safeguarding.** Do not engage in conduct that places a child or vulnerable person at risk. Report safeguarding concerns promptly to Simcoe Rising Star Team On-Site.

For a minor Participant, the parent or legal guardian must provide supervision arrangements, emergency information, and any additional consent required by the Organizer.

10. Prizes and Winner Selection

Category or placement	Prize or recognition	Conditions
Winner of age group 6-12	\$1000	You score the highest out of your age group on Gala Night.
Winner of age group 13-17	\$1000	You score the highest out of your age group on Gala Night.
Winner of age group 18 & Up	\$1000	You score the highest out of your age group on Gala Night.

Winners will be selected using the judging and voting process stated in Section 5 and the official Competition rules. The Organizer will announce the 3 winners on Saturday Oct 24, 2026 . A winner must satisfy all eligibility and verification requirements and must claim the prize by the close of Gala Night on Oct 24,2026.

11. Cancellation, Disqualification, and Changes

The Organizer may cancel, postpone, relocate, suspend, or change the Competition, a round, a schedule, a venue, a technical requirement, or a prize where reasonably necessary because of safety, legal, operational, technical, venue, weather, public-health, or other circumstances. The Organizer will provide notice using Email and Phone. Credits, replacement opportunities, or other remedies for a cancellation or change will be made by the organizer.

The organizer or Simcoe Rising Star Team may disqualify or remove Participant for ineligibility, false information, missed requirements, unsafe conduct, misconduct, rights violations, rule violations, interference with judging, or failure to follow reasonable instructions. Where practicable, the Organizer will give Participant notice and an opportunity to respond, but immediate action may be taken when safety or fairness requires it.

12. Liability and Assumption of Risk

Participant understands that participation may involve travel, crowds, physical movement, loud sound, stage equipment, technical equipment, props, costumes, and other risks.

Participant voluntarily accepts the ordinary and reasonably foreseeable risks of participation and confirms that Participant is physically and otherwise able to participate. Participant is responsible for personal property, travel, medical needs, insurance, and expenses unless the Organizer expressly agrees otherwise in writing. Participant must promptly report an injury, unsafe condition, or emergency to event personnel. The Organizer is not responsible for loss, damage, injury, delay, or expense caused by circumstances outside the Organizer's reasonable control or by Participant's own acts or omissions.

13. Privacy and Personal Information

The Organizer may collect and use Participant's name, contact details, date of birth, emergency information, submissions, recordings, permissions, payment information if applicable, and other information necessary to register, operate, safeguard, judge, publicize, and administer the Competition. The Organizer will handle personal information according to privacy policies within Ontario and Canadian laws. Information may be shared with judges, staff, venues, production providers, prize providers, sponsors, safeguarding personnel, professional advisers, and authorities when reasonably necessary for those purposes or required by law. Participant may contact Karen Ritchie (Simcoe Rising Star) to access, correct, withdrawal of optional consent, or information about retention, subject to legal and operational limits. Required information may be necessary for participation.

14. Dispute Resolution and Governing Law

The Parties will first attempt in good faith to resolve a dispute by contacting Karen Ritchie (Simcoe Rising Star) and allowing 7 days for a response. If unresolved, the dispute will proceed by mediation / arbitration / court process in the city of Barrie. This Agreement is governed by the laws of Ontario, without regard to its conflict-of-law rules. The courts or other forum with authority in the city of Barrie, in the province of Ontario. Any mandatory rights or remedies under applicable law remain unaffected.

15. General Terms

This Agreement and the official Competition rules identified by the Organizer contain the entire agreement about participation and replace prior discussions on that subject. Any amendment must be in writing and approved by the Parties, except for reasonable operational updates permitted under this Agreement. If a provision is found invalid or unenforceable, it will be limited or removed only to the extent necessary, and the remaining provisions will continue. A waiver must be written and applies only to the specific instance stated. Participant may not assign this Agreement or Participant's place in the Competition without the Organizer's written approval. The Organizer may use staff, contractors, judges, venues, and service providers to operate the Competition. Nothing in this Agreement creates employment, partnership, agency, joint venture, or exclusive representation. Notices must be sent to the contact details stated in this Agreement or updated in writing. Electronic signatures and counterparts are permitted where legally valid. Provisions concerning rights, permissions, privacy, liability, disputes, and any other provision intended by its nature to continue will survive completion or termination.

16. Participant Acknowledgment

- ☐ By signing below, Participant confirms that Participant: Has read and understood this Agreement and the official Competition rules provided by the Organizer.
- ☐ Has provided accurate participant and eligibility information.
- ☐ Has selected the category stated in Section 3 and will meet the related requirements.
- ☐ Will meet registration, submission, schedule, performance, safety, and conduct obligations.
- ☐ Owns or has obtained the permissions required for all submitted and performed material.
- ☐ Understands the music, image, recording, publicity, privacy, liability, cancellation, and disqualification terms in this Agreement.
- ☐ Agrees to the selected publicity permission in Section 8 and any limits written there.
- ☐ Understands that a parent or legal guardian must also sign if Participant is under 16 years old and an adult must be in the venue the entire time of the participant being in the venue during auditions or Finale Gala Night.

Participant confirms that Participant has had the opportunity to ask questions before signing and enters this Agreement voluntarily.

17. Signatures

Signatory	Printed name	Signature	Date
Participant			
Parent or legal guardian, if Participant is a minor			
Simcoe Rising Star, produced, founded, and owned by Karen Ritchie	Karen Ritchie		

If Participant is a minor, the parent or legal guardian confirms that they have authority to provide consent, have reviewed this Agreement with the Participant, consent to the Participant's participation, and agree to the applicable obligations and permissions on the Participant's behalf.