



# **Miss Rodeo Illinois 2011 Pageant Official Rulebook**

A state preliminary pageant sanctioned by Miss Rodeo America, Inc.

## **Miss Rodeo Illinois Mission Statement**

Miss Rodeo Illinois Association works to select an ambassador of good will who will promote a positive image of professional rodeo and the western way of life, keeping education, leadership and personal growth in the forefront and doing so with the highest level of integrity.

## **Letter from the Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant Director, Lisa Boeding**

Dear Contestant,

As your Pageant Director, I would first like to welcome you to the 2011 Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant. It is my job to make sure your weekend here is a competitive one as well as a fun, learning experience. Wearing the crown of Miss Rodeo Illinois is a once in a lifetime opportunity, where a deserving young woman will get to represent the sport of Professional Rodeo and The Land of Lincoln. Again, I would like to welcome you to the Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant and Good Luck!

Sincerely,

Lisa Boeding

Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant Director

## **Letter from the Illinois National Director, Robin DeMott**

Dear Contestant,

Welcome to the Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant. As your national director it is my job to help not only set the standard for which this pageant is conducted, but to help Miss Rodeo Illinois prepare for the Miss Rodeo America Pageant held in Las Vegas during the National Finals Rodeo. As Miss Rodeo Illinois, the winner will have countless opportunities to not only better her skills in preparation for Miss Rodeo America, but to also meet rodeo stars, musicians and all around fans who, just like you, have a love for the sport of rodeo and the western way of life. I want to sincerely and personally welcome you to this extraordinary event and hope you will leave with memories and friendships to last for years to come.

Sincerely,

Robin DeMott

Miss Rodeo Illinois Association National Director

**Who is Miss Rodeo Illinois?**

Miss Rodeo Illinois symbolizes the youth of our nation who wish to further promote the sport of professional rodeo, and in doing so, promote the western way of life. She is the ideal, western type American girl, and is the person who will represent professional rodeo and Illinois as she travels the state and throughout the country.

**What does it mean to be Miss Rodeo Illinois?**

While spreading good will for her community and her state, Miss Rodeo Illinois is garnering the richest experience of her life and laying a solid foundation for her future. She receives a western wardrobe, riding equipment and accessories. At the end of her reign she will have the opportunity to proudly represent Illinois in the Miss Rodeo America Pageant held in Las Vegas, N.V.

**What type of young woman does the Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant attract?**

The Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant attracts a young woman who:

- Wishes to be a leader in her community, and further promote the western way of life on local, state and national basis
- Who loves horses and everything they represent, and who wants to show what can be accomplished while being a part of this environment.
- Who wants to act as an official representative of professional rodeo in the Land of Lincoln, portraying good sportsmanship and high moral and ethical character, and a reflection of careful and humane treatment of animals. She should understand the sport of rodeo in its entirety in order to promote rodeo to anyone with whom she may come in contact with and be able to speak intelligently, with dignity and sincerity in the interest of rodeo.

## **Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant Official Rules and Regulations**

Each contestant must comply with all rules as outlined herein. Miss Rodeo Illinois Association reserves the right to disqualify any contestant for any rule infraction. The Miss Rodeo Illinois Association Board has complete authority over the Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant and any activities of the contestants during the pageant.

### **Contestant Eligibility**

Each contestant in the Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant shall:

1. Be at least 19 years and shall not have obtained the age of 26 by December 31, 2011, the same to be evidenced by her birth certificate presented before competition.
2. Have obtained a high school diploma or the equivalent of high school education.
3. Not have been previously nor currently married and /or pregnant, or had a marriage annulled.
4. Be a legal resident of Illinois (proof shown by driver's license or voter registration card.)
5. Not have been a prior contestant and/or competed in the Miss Rodeo America Pageant.
6. Not be a state titleholder of any other national pageant in the year of competition for the Miss Rodeo America Pageant.
7. Have executed all consents and waivers of liability presented as conditions precedents to competition
8. Abide by all rules and regulations of the Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant.
9. Be willing to represent Illinois in the 2011 Miss Rodeo America Pageant.

### **Loss of Title and Benefits**

Subsequent to the Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant, any person being awarded the title of Miss Rodeo Illinois and/or otherwise becoming the successor thereto, shall not:

1. Have been previously married and/or be pregnant, nor had a marriage annulled.
2. Be charged with and/or determined to have committed any crime of moral turpitude.
3. Solicit, negotiate or contract with any third person for appearances, photographs, sponsorships and/endorsements during the year of her reign unless approved by the Miss Rodeo Illinois Board of Directors.
4. Upon occurrence of any of the above events, the title of Miss Rodeo Illinois together any and all benefits derived by such person, shall be forfeited and awarded to the next qualified runner up.

### **Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant Requirements**

1. All entry applications must be postmarked by July 1, 2010, and accompanied by:
  - a. \$175 entry fee made payable to "Miss Rodeo Illinois" in the form of a check or money order.
  - b. Proof of birth (copy of birth certificate).
  - c. One (1) color head and shoulders 8 x 10 vertical photograph in western attire including hat (no crowns or banners).
  - d. Signed waivers and release of photographic copy rights
  - e. Proof of Medical Insurance.

2. Miss Rodeo Illinois Assoc. will provide banners to be worn by contestants during the Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant. No other banners or crowns will be worn by contestants during the Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant.
3. Horses will not be provided for horsemanship. The contestant will bring a horse.
4. Contestants will be under the supervision of the Miss Rodeo Illinois personnel and/or chaperones during the course of the pageant.
5. Parents, relatives and friends of Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant contestants are welcome to attend certain events at which the contestants will be present.
6. A Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant grievance committee established by the Board of Directors will be available at all times to receive any type of grievance. The proper procedure in filing a grievance is to put the complaint in writing and submit it to the Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant Director who will in turn set up a meeting to discuss the particular grievance.
7. Video and cameras are allowed during the pageant but their use shall not disrupt pageant activities. Precedence will be given to official pageant personnel for video and photography needs.
8. Judging will take precedence over all pageant activities.
9. Contestants to the Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant are required to pay their own transportation to and from the pageant. All food and lodging while at the Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant will be provided by the Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant (unless snacks needed which will be paid for by the contestant).
10. As soon as a contestant has checked in, she is, at that time, under the complete jurisdiction of the Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant personnel. Pageant personnel shall not be responsible for lost or stolen articles; however, all necessary precautions will be taken to prevent loss.
11. Drinking alcohol, drug use, smoking or the use of foul language will not be tolerated before, during, or following the pageant and may result in the contestant being disqualified and/or any awards won being forfeited. Contestants will cooperate at all times with pageant officials, personnel and fellow contestants. A contestant's behavior is a direct reflection on her true personality and will be taken into account during all pageant activities.
12. Contestants must be prompt for all activities including submission of applications, waivers, photos and judged events or disqualification may occur.
13. Whoever shall be awarded the title of Miss Rodeo Illinois will be responsible for taking care of all financial obligation while serving her reign which will begin on Jan. 1, 2011. As Miss Rodeo Illinois she may help defray costs by retaining personal sponsorships, and conducting fundraisers as allowed by Miss Rodeo Illinois Assoc. She will be responsible for all wardrobe, food lodging and transportation while performing her duties as Miss Rodeo Illinois. Duties include but are not limited to attending as many PRCA rodeos within the state and representing Illinois at the Miss Rodeo America Pageant in December of her reign. She is to cooperate with the Miss Rodeo Illinois National Director.

14. In the event Miss Rodeo Illinois marries or becomes disqualified due to an infraction of the rules or the breaking of the signed contract with Miss Rodeo Illinois Assoc. the Board of Directors of Miss Rodeo Illinois Assoc. may award the title and all prizes and benefits of said title to the next qualified runner up.
15. All contestants are expected to stay following the coronation ceremony for photos with their prizes and gifts. Failure to do so may result in forfeiture of honors, awards. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated.

### **Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant Judging Guidelines**

Miss Rodeo Illinois is judged in three (3) main categories all of which are equal; horsemanship, personality and appearance. In addition, the scores from a contestant's speech, photogenic quality, extemporaneous question, interview, introduction, fashion show presentation, etc. will be added in a fourth and equal "other" category. The score from a written test will be included in the final scoring.

#### **Judges**

1. Two (2) to five (5) judges, depending on the number of contestants, will judge all categories of the pageant.
2. All scores from all judges will be totaled for each contestant each time they are judged. All scores are at the discretion of the judges.
3. Judges are selected for their expertise in all fields of the competition—horsemanship, personality, appearance, etc. They should all have an awareness of correct western dress, they should be knowledgeable about the sport of professional rodeo, and they should be experienced horsemen and horsewomen who are accustomed to judging horse events. Every attempt will be made to secure judges who are unfamiliar with the contestants.
4. Should a judge become incapacitated during the pageant, judging will continue with the remaining judges, for the remainder of the pageant or until the incapacitated judge can resume. In the event the judge is unable to complete their duties, the scores from the remaining judges will be totaled along with the previously scored events.
5. A member of the Miss Rodeo Illinois Assoc. or an appointee will collect score sheets from each judge. Each judge will place his/her score sheets in a manila envelope, seal the envelope, and sign his/her name across the flap. The collection person will deliver the sealed envelope to the independent auditing individual or firm, preferably a CPA, who will tabulate scores with results sealed until the announcement of awards. Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant personnel do not have access to the score sheets.

### **Judged Events**

**Horsemanship:** Each contestant will ride a horse in each of two go-rounds of horsemanship competition. Judges may ask for additional demonstration of horsemanship skills as time allows, which may include a flag presentation, a queen's run and a brief interview. All contestants will receive the same consideration. As in rodeo, the contestant will draw for the order in which she competes and will also draw for her mount for the second go-round. No contestant will ride the same horse in both go-rounds.

The judges will select one of the three patterns outlined in the MRA Pageant rulebook (patterns courtesy of AQHA). **The patterns are available through a link posted on the [www.MissRodeoIllinois.com](http://www.MissRodeoIllinois.com) website.** First, contestants will ride the set pattern followed by a free-style pattern of their choosing.

**Freestyle Pattern:** Each contestant will be given 1 ½ minutes to show the horse she has drawn to the best of her ability. A specific starting point will be marked and time will begin as contestant passes that point. A queen's ride, acknowledging the audience, should be included in the 1 ½ minute presentation.

The announcer will acknowledge when 1 minute has elapsed, giving the contestant ample time to complete her performance. The entire 1 ½ minutes do not have to be utilized. Contestant should focus on her ability to utilize the horse she has drawn, as well as, the ability to perform. The MRI Judges reserve the right to make alterations and/or additions to these instructions

**Prepared Speech/Public Speaking Opportunity:** Each contestant is required to give a two (2) minute speech on the state of Illinois. A Media Event may be held as part of this judged event. The media event may be, but is not limited to a recorded one-on-one interview to be shown on screen following the interview. Judging is based on knowledge, poise, professionalism and delivery. The contestant with the highest total score in the speech/public speaking competition will be recognized with a speech award. Judging is based on content, delivery and the time allotted for presentation. All speeches must be original to the contestant and memorized. No props allowed. A jacket and Wrangler pant product of the contestant's choice is to be worn for this portion of the competition.

**Interview:** The judges will interview each contestant, and judges will have copies of the contestant applications. Questions asked will interview each contestant's knowledge of the pageant, professional rodeo, horsemanship and current events. Each contestant may be interviewed on each of the following categories; knowledge of tack, horse care, feeding, diseases, anatomy, etc., professional rodeo—its history, organization, rodeo terminology, explanation of standard events, awareness of the PRCA and WPRA championship standings, Great Lake Circuit and goings-on in the professional rodeo world.

**Extemporaneous Questions:** Extemporaneous questions will be asked of each contestant during pageant functions. Questions may relate to the sport of rodeo and/or current events.

**Modeling:** A fashion show will be held to showcase the contestant's appearance and personality.

**Photogenic Quality:** The judges will score the required 8 x 10 vertical, head and shoulder photograph submitted by each contestant.

### **Category Winners**

1. **Horsemanship** - The winner of the Horsemanship category will have the highest cumulative total of the horsemanship.
2. **Speech/Public Speaking Opportunity** - The winner of the Speech/Public Speaking Opportunity award will have the highest cumulative total speech score.
3. **Photogenic** - The winner of the Photogenic award will have the highest cumulative total photogenic score.
4. **Miss Congeniality** - Votes cast by the contestants will select the winner of the Miss Congeniality award.
5. **Miss Rodeo Illinois** - The contestant receiving the highest grand total score for the week shall be crowned Miss Rodeo Illinois.
6. **First Runner-Up** - The contestant receiving the second highest grand total shall be named first runner up.
7. **Second Runner-Up** - The contestant receiving the third highest grand total shall be named second runner up.

Ties for category winners will be broken by referring to Judge #1. Judge #1's score will break the tie. If a tie still remains, Judge #2's score will be used. The horsemanship scores will break a tie for Miss Rodeo Illinois and runners-up, i.e., the contestant with the highest score in horsemanship will receive the higher(est) ranking.

### **Pageant Divisions**

**Appearance** – the purpose of this judged division is to select the young lady who rates highest in:

1. Attractiveness.
2. Grooming – to include neatness and cleanliness in every detail, such as complexion, hands, fingernails, hair, hat, boots and other wearing apparel. Meticulous care in general grooming is essential for a young lady to be considered as Miss Rodeo Illinois.
3. Photogenic Quality - Judges will have an 8 x 10 color head and shoulder picture to study of each contestant. A young lady's strength of character and personality are reflected strongly in a wholesome appearance.

4. Poise and Posture – lady-like behavior in every situation.
5. Knowledge of Proper Western Attire – contestants should be aware of what is fashionable western dress, with particular attention given to color coordination (contestants should know how the use of various color combinations can enhance appearance and eye appeal). Judges will be observing how a contestant’s clothes fit and suit her personality. Contestants are expected to appear in “full western attire,” at all times, unless otherwise specified. i.e., western dress, western skirt and blouse or jacket combination, or WRANGLER pant product with western blouse and/or jacket. All outfits should include western hat, boots, belt and banner.
6. It is mandatory that contestants wear WRANGLER brand product whenever they are in pants.
7. Dresses, skirts and blouses should reflect a western image. Evening gowns/cocktail type dresses are not acceptable. Garments must exhibit a western image.
8. It is not necessary to invest in an excessive amount of expensive clothing. Judges will be looking for versatility and imagination displayed by the contestants.
9. Contestants should be knowledgeable on current trends in western wear manufacturing.

**Horsemanship** – the purpose of this division is to select the young lady who rates highest in:

1. Horsemanship – to include control of mount and the way any situation which may occur is handled.
2. Balance – ability to sit a saddle.
3. Positions of hands, feet and seat. Mounting and dismounting.
4. The understanding and skill of the contestant will be judged and not the horse or the equipment.
5. There will be two go-rounds of horsemanship competition. Patterns to be used will be selected at the time of competition from the diagrams found on the [www.MissRodeoIllinois.com](http://www.MissRodeoIllinois.com) website linking to the Miss Rodeo America Pageant horsemanship patterns. At the discretion of the discretion of the Judges, patterns may be altered due to arena conditions. Contestants may also be required to dismount and remount, carry a flag and/or perform additional maneuvers on horseback. Contestants may or may not be asked to do a presentation ride following completion of one of their patterns. Any changes and/or alterations to the horsemanship patterns will be announced to the contestants before the horsemanship-p competition begins. The patterns will be demonstrated by the reigning Miss Rodeo Illinois.
6. Dress for horsemanship, is a WRANGLER brand pant product; formfitting blouse or shirt with long-sleeves any color with shirt tail tucked in. No vests, no jackets. Any color accessories (hat, boots, and belt) may be used. Gloves are optional, chaps and spurs are not allowed. All riding attire should be neat and fit properly. Showmanship should be considered, since a contestant’s personality does project from horseback to the audience and judges.

**Personality** – the purpose of this division is to select the young lady who rates highest in:

1. Intelligence – good common sense.
2. Education – conversational ability in rodeo and other areas, with special emphasis on grammar and enunciation.
3. Attractiveness – not necessarily to be beauty in this sense, but rather should note whether the contestant radiates self confidence without making an issue out of it. She should also show maturity, high moral standards, sincerity and integrity.
4. Personality Reflections – to include contestant’s style of attire, overall appearance, magnetism and eye appeal.
5. Genuine interest in other people, in the pageant and in rodeo, and a noticeable consideration for others.
6. Self Projection-ability to project one’s personality, whether it is from horseback in and arena, on television, or before an audience. Also, to be considered are sense of humor, showmanship, ambition, desire and enthusiasm.
7. Happy outlook on life in general.
8. Promptness in keeping pageant schedule.
9. Public Appearances – includes public appearances of contestants, giving them an opportunity to speak to an audience with facts and interesting information about their hometown and Illinois. Contestants will be expected to answer questions in at least one of their public appearances, with these questions prepared in advance and drawn by the contestant or a MRI Pageant official. Some possible subjects include; rodeo terms to define, rodeo events to explain, extemporaneous questions, all of which require the contestant to think “on her feet”, and show maturity, intelligence, wisdom and imagination. Judges will have a resume contestant pictures and a brief list of hobbies other activities on each contestant.

**People’s Choice Award:**

Prior to the Miss Rodeo Illinois pageant, each contestant will be required to decorate a container of their choosing to obtain monetary “votes” for the newly established Miss Rodeo Illinois Scholarship Fund. Each contestant will be given opportunities prior to, during and after pageant events to collect as many “votes” as possible. Monies may only be collected by contestants during the pageant, not prior to. The contestant collecting the most “votes” will be awarded a category prize. The results of this event will have no point value going into the total score for the pageant.