



Miss Rodeo Illinois Miss Teen Rodeo Illinois Official Pageant Rules and Regulations

WELCOME

Miss Rodeo Illinois Association is a state preliminary Pageant sanctioned by Miss Rodeo America, Inc. The Miss Rodeo America organization and Pageant competition exists for the purposes of selecting a young lady to serve as an official spokesperson for the sport of professional rodeo (PRCA) and providing educational opportunities for those young women who compete in the Miss Rodeo America Pageant. The Miss Rodeo Illinois Association strives to provide a rewarding and memorable experience. If you should have any questions or concerns, please contact Katie Perry, Miss Rodeo America National Director – IL. As a Contestant in this program, you will need to read and understand these rules and regulations and the appropriate contract, either Miss Rodeo Illinois or Miss Teen Rodeo Illinois. These Pageant Rules and Regulations are interchangeable with both titles. These documents may be found on our website, www.missrodeoillinois.com. Thank you for becoming a part of this valuable program!

MISS RODEO ILLINOIS MISSION STATEMENT

The 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.

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. 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. In December, she will have the opportunity to proudly represent Illinois at the Miss Rodeo America Pageant held in Las Vegas, Nevada in conjunction with the National Finals Rodeo. 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.

PAGEANT REQUIREMENTS

Mail all entry forms to:

Rosemary Cooper, President MRIA

18000 W State Route 90

Princeville, IL 61559

Postmarked by **July 15, 2021** and accompanied by:

- \$200 Entry Fee (**checks payable to Miss Rodeo Illinois Association**)
- Copy of birth certificate or registration of birth
- Copy of health and/or medical insurance
- Proof of residency
- One (1) 8 x 10 vertical color head-and-shoulders photograph
- Entry form including
 1. Photograph Copyright Release
 2. Equine Activity Waiver
 3. Release of Liability
 4. Contestant Eligibility

HOUSING

Contestants will be lodged at the Miss Rodeo Illinois host hotel and meals will be furnished. No lodging will be furnished for Contestant family members.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Possession of and use of all electric devices (i.e., cell phones, computers, iPads, tablets, etc.) by Contestants during competition is prohibited.

CHAPERONES

The Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant Contestants will be under the supervision of the Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant chaperones for the duration of the Pageant. The chaperones will escort the Contestants to and from functions during the Pageant.

PARENTS AND RELATIVES

The Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant Committee welcomes and encourages the presence of parents, relatives and friends of each Contestant. No one will be permitted to fraternize with the Contestants or distract them after the Pageant begins. Contestants cannot communicate with family or friends during the Pageant unless authorized by their chaperones or the Pageant Committee. Social time with the Contestants will be designated on the public schedule.

RAFFLE TICKETS

During each performance of the rodeo, each Contestant will sell 50/50 tickets to benefit the Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant.

TRANSPORTATION

The Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant Committee will provide all transportation for Contestants as needed for Contestant functions. Transportation for Contestant parents will not be furnished.

HORSES

Horses will be provided for the Horsemanship competition.

MISS RODEO ILLINOIS PAGEANT JUDGING GUIDELINES

Miss Rodeo Illinois is judged in three categories: horsemanship, personality and appearance. In addition, the scores from the Contestant's speech, interview(s), extemporaneous question(s), modeling, written test, etc. are included.

A. JUDGES

1. Three Judges will judge all categories of the Pageant. Scores will be totaled for each Contestant each time they are judged.
2. Judges are selected for their expertise in all fields of the competition. They have an awareness of correct western dress, they are knowledgeable about the sport of professional rodeo and they are experienced, western-type horsemen and horsewomen who are accustomed to judging these events.
3. All decisions of the Judges are final.
4. The Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant Committee will institute appropriate standards for Judges to ensure that all Judges are impartial and have an appropriate level of experience in the field. The Committee will have the final decision on the selection of Judges for the Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant.
5. In the event of a dispute concerning the decision of the Judges, review of the dispute shall be limited to determining if the Judges acted in good faith, impartially and in accordance with the applicable rules. If any Judge is found to have acted in violation of these rules, the Miss Rodeo Illinois National Director, a Pageant Chairperson and the Miss Rodeo Illinois Association President, at their discretion, may remove such Judge and may take any remedial action they deem appropriate. All decisions of the Miss Rodeo Illinois National Director and Miss Rodeo Illinois Association President are final.
6. Ties for category winners will be broken by referring back to Judge No. 1. Judge No. 1's score will break the tie. If a tie still remains, Judge No. 2's score will be used.
7. A tie in the overall score for Miss Rodeo Illinois shall be broken by using the highest overall Horsemanship score.
8. Judges will be asked to spend as much time with each Contestant as possible without showing favoritism. This will include informal talks with them during meals and various events.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. Following the Buckle Ceremony, all official Judges' score sheets will be delivered to the Miss Rodeo Illinois Association President.

B. JUDGED EVENTS

Horsemanship The purpose of this division is to select a Contestant who scores highest in:

1. Horsemanship. Control of the horse and the way any situation is handled.
2. Balance. The ability to sit a saddle, position of hands, feet and seat.
3. Contestants may also be required to dismount and remount, carry a flag, a queen's run, and/or perform additional maneuvers on horseback.
4. Care of the horse and saddling procedures. Questions may be asked.
5. The understanding and skill of the Contestant will be judged, not the horse or the equipment.
6. Each Contestant is required to ride a horse provided by the Pageant Committee. She will draw for the order in which she will compete and also draw for her second go-round horse. She will be scored on her appearance and the personality she projects during both Horsemanship go-rounds.
7. The Contestant will be responsible for providing her own flag boot.
8. Dress for the Horsemanship contest will be; a western, long-sleeved shirt which may be colored and/or tailored with or without embellishments, western jeans which may be colored or blue jeans, belt, boots and a hat. No vests, jackets or chaps. Spurs are not allowed. All attire should be neat and fit properly. Sponsor consideration is appreciated. (Wrangler is the National sponsor of the Miss Rodeo America Horsemanship contest.)
9. Showmanship should be considered since your personality does project from horseback to the audience and Judges.
10. Equine boots are allowed.
11. Stallions are not allowed.
12. Use of hackamores/mechanical hackamores, gag bits or martingales will not be allowed.
13. No one, including coaches, family or friends of the Contestant, will be allowed in the arena prior to the Horsemanship competition. If it is discovered that someone associated with a Contestant has been in the arena, the Contestant will have points deducted from her total Horsemanship score. This will be strictly enforced.
14. No Contestant will ride the same horse in both go-rounds.

The winner of the Miss Rodeo Illinois Horsemanship category will be the Contestant with the highest cumulative points received in the two Horsemanship go-rounds.

The first go-round, each Contestant will execute a set pattern chosen by the Judges. The Judges will select one of the three patterns outlined in the Miss Rodeo America Pageant rulebook (patterns courtesy of AQHA). The patterns are available through a link posted on the www.missrodeoillinois.com website. The Miss Rodeo Illinois Judges reserve the right to make alterations and/or additions to the pattern.

The second go-round, each Contestant will show their equitation and arena presence in small groups, also referred to as "rail work." The contestant's overall poise, confidence, appearance, and position throughout the rail work will be evaluated. Position is meant to refer to the Contestant's body position while riding and how the contestants position their horse relative to the other contestants while riding on the rail. These small groups will not involve more than 12 riders at a time.

The groups will receive their working direction and gait instructions from the Horsemanship competition's announcer. A Pageant official will manage the arena to ensure all Contestants receive the same opportunity (time) to demonstrate their Horsemanship skills. The rail work will include the Contestants showing their Horsemanship skills at a walk, trot, and lope for both directions of the arena (clockwise and counter-clockwise.)

At the Judges' discretion, the Contestants may be asked to execute an extended trot, a stop from any gait, and backing their horses while on the rail. The Judges may request the Contestants to line up in the arena's center upon direction from the Pageant official, at which time they may request maneuvers such as riding their horse forward and then backing in to line, and/or dismounting/remounting their horse.

Personality The purpose of this division is to select a Contestant who scores 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 mean beauty, but rather whether the Contestant radiates self-confidence without making an issue of it, shows maturity, high moral standards, sincerity and integrity.
4. Personality reflections. Includes the Contestant's style of attire, overall appearance, magnetism and eye appeal.
5. A genuine interest in other people, in the Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant and in rodeo with a noticeable consideration of others.
6. Self-projection. The ability to project one's personality, whether it is from horseback, in an arena, on television or before an audience. Also considered are a sense of humor, showmanship, ambition, desire and enthusiasm.
7. Happy outlook on life. Promptness in keeping Pageant schedule.
8. Public appearances. Contestant's opportunity to speak to an audience with facts and interesting information. Contestants will answer extemporaneous questions which will require the Contestant to think on her feet and to show maturity, intelligence, wisdom and imagination.
9. Personality scores will be accumulated not only from the personality interviews but from the other areas of competition, such as horsemanship, TV and radio interviews, horsemanship interview, modeling, group interview, speech and impromptu questions. The winner of the Personality category will have the highest cumulative total of personality scores received in all judged events.

Appearance The purpose of this division is to select the Contestant who scores highest in:

1. Attractiveness.
2. Grooming. To include neatness and cleanliness in every detail, such as complexion, hands, fingernails, hair and clothing. Meticulous care in general grooming is essential for a lady to be considered for Miss Rodeo Illinois.
3. Poise and posture. Lady-like behavior in every situation.
4. Knowledge of proper western attire. Contestants should be aware of what is fashionable and appropriate in western dress, with particular attention to color coordination. Judges will be looking for versatility and imagination. They will be observing how a Contestant's clothes fit and suit her personality, including the length of her pants, shirts, and jackets and the crease and shape of her hat. Long sleeves are required. It is not necessary to invest in an excessive amount of expensive clothing. Contestants may be questioned on their familiarity of western wear.
5. Appearance scores will be accumulated throughout all areas of the competition to include horsemanship, all interviews, modeling and speech. The winner of the Appearance category will have the highest cumulative total of appearance scores received in all judged events.

Speech

1. Each Contestant will give a two-minute prepared speech about the State of Illinois or an aspect of the State of Illinois.
2. Notes and props are not allowed.
3. Contestants are judged on the content, correct grammar usage, delivery, structure, quality of voice and listening ability.
4. The Judges may deduct points for going over or under the two-minute time limit.
5. The Speech score will be added to the total points for the contest.

Interview

1. Each Contestant will be interviewed individually and privately by the Judges and may be interviewed on many categories.
2. Judges' questions asked will test the Contestant's knowledge of the Pageant, professional rodeo, horsemanship and current affairs. Other interview topics could include knowledge of tack, horse care, feeding, diseases, anatomy, knowledge of Pro Rodeo, its history, terminology, organization, championship standings, and what's current in the Pro Rodeo world.
3. During the individual interviews, answers should be in-depth so that the Judges may determine the character and knowledge of each Contestant.
4. The interview length should be sufficient for the Contestant and Judges to communicate.
5. Questions will pertain to horsemanship, appearance and personality and will be scored in all three divisions.

Extemporaneous Questions

1. Extemporaneous questions will be asked of each Contestant during various Pageant functions.
2. Questions may related to the sport of professional rodeo, current events, and/or a personality-type question.

Written Test

1. Contestants will be required to take a written test consisting of questions relating to the sport of rodeo, equine knowledge, current events, Pageant Rules and Regulations.
2. The written test score will count toward the Contestant's total score.

Photogenic and Modeling

1. The Judges will score the required 8 x 10 vertical, head and shoulder photograph submitted by each Contestant.
2. Modeling will be held to showcase the Contestant's appearance and personality.

AUDITORS

At the end of each category of the Pageant, each Judge will seal their scoring envelope and turn them into the Miss Rodeo Illinois Association President. The President will deliver the seal envelopes to an auditor, who is an area accountant, who will then compile the scores in private.

When judging has been completed, the auditor will determine which Contestant has scored the highest in each category of the Pageant. The highest grand total score will be named Miss Rodeo Illinois Lady-in-Waiting. The second highest score will be the First Runner-up.

The original Judges' score sheets will be officially filed with the National Director. Score sheets with Judge's comments only (no points) will be sent to individual Contestants upon the Contestant's request following the Pageant.

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

The Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant Grievance Committee during the Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant will be available at all times during the Pageant. The National Director will be the contact and spokesperson for the Committee. The National Director and/or the appointed Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant Committee member will attend all functions of the Pageant. Any grievance must be filed by a Contestant to be a valid grievance. No grievance from parents, guardians, trainers, family or third party will be acknowledged. The grievance must be handwritten, signed and delivered to the Grievance Committee spokesperson and must be filed within three hours of the event being protested. A grievance must address a single event. When the Grievance Committee spokesperson receives the grievance, a meeting will be called and the Grievance Committee will review the grievance. Once the grievance is reviewed, the Committee will make a decision whether to act upon, reject or disregard the grievance.

- The Grievance Committee and Contestant with a concern will not discuss the grievance with anyone, including parents, other contestants, Judges, etc.
- The Grievance Committee will interview the accused.
- The Grievance Committee must make a decision based on facts. They must be certain, without a doubt, that the misconduct or misrepresentation by the accused was intentional or that there was an infraction of a rule. If the Committee feels the grievance needs to be acted upon, they will take the complaint to the Miss Rodeo Illinois Association President and the Head Judge of the Miss Rodeo Illinois Pageant.
- The Grievance Committee must come to a majority decision.
- The Pageant will continue as scheduled until decisions have been made.
- No grievances may be based solely on the scoring by Judges.

Upon arrival of applications, each Contestant will receive an email with more in-depth details on the Pageant. For more information and questions, please contact the Miss Rodeo Illinois National Director, Katie Perry at missrodeoilinois2014@outlook.com or 309-635-8427.