



SARATOGA COUNTY FAIR TALENT CONTEST RULES AND REGULATIONS "START TO STAR" 2009

1. Time limit for each act must not exceed five minutes. Any act running over this will be disqualified. Acts will be timed.
2. Bands, baton twirlers or acts presenting a safety hazard will not be accepted.
3. Contestants must be strictly amateur. Performers or groups holding union cards are not eligible.
4. Contestants must not be/have been under contract for reimbursement for their performance. Expense money is not considered reimbursement.
5. Contestants may perform a maximum of three times in Open Events and three times in State Events. ... ONE (1) solo and a member of only TWO (2) other groups or THREE (3) groups with no solo. A group is defined as a performance with two (2) or more participants. If this rule is violated, the contestant and group will be disqualified. For Best of Fair a contestant may compete a maximum of three (3) times and must limit participation to ONE (1) solo, TWO (2) groups or THREE (3) groups with no solo. If a contestant qualifies more than three (3) times between the Open and State events, he/she must limit the choices to three (3) performances.

The 50% rule will be strictly adhered to concerning groups. In a duo, if one contestant is 12 and under and the other is 13 and over, they will compete in the Maxi Division. In a group of three or larger, if 50% or more of the group is 13 and over, they will compete in the Maxi Division.

6. With the increasing number of participants, it is advised to register early. Please submit a copy of each contestant's birth with application. Incomplete entry blanks will not be considered. **Once the application has been accepted any substitutions for performer, music or routine must be made in writing. No applications will be accepted by phone.**

Only contestants planning to advance to the State Fair Talent Showcase should submit applications to State Fair qualifying events. All other contestants should make application to Open events.

To enter the State Fair Talent Showcase, an individual must first compete and be one of the top 25 winners in a County Mini State or Maxi State Talent Show. You may compete at any County Fair. You must however, be a resident of New York State. It is up to the discretion of the host county fair to accept or decline applications from non-county residents. The deadline for entering is five days after the final competition of the County Fair that you participate in. Upon winning, and if you are eligible, the County Fair Chairperson will forward the appropriate paperwork to the New York State Fair. Expenses for the State Fair are the responsibility of the individuals.

7. The judges' decisions are final. Judges will score based on:

a. Technique/Natural Ability	1-30 points
b. Execution/Choreography, Quality of Performance	1-30 points
c. Stage Presence and Showmanship	1-20 points

In case of a tie, judges will score based on execution/choreography and quality of performance - 1-30 points.

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(Continued)

8. Contestants must provide their own music in the form of a cassette tape or CD. Keyboards are not provided but may be used. Sound equipment will be available.

9. Winning contestants, i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th of **all Mini and Maxi** competitions may compete on Sunday for Best of Fair. The first three winning contestants from the 7 and Under category will also be eligible to compete for Best of Fair. All acts in Best of Fair competition must remain the same as performed in the qualifying event. Group performances may not have substitute or additional performers. However, deletions of performers in group acts are acceptable. **Contestants must inform Mrs. Poitras if unable to compete in Best of Fair so alternates can be notified.**

10. Teachers are not permitted to compete in their professional talent, e.g. a dance teacher could not compete as a dancer. An unpaid student teacher, 18 and under, is eligible to compete. Age eligibility is on or before opening day of the Fair.

11. There is no entry fee required. However, an admission ticket to the grounds must be purchased.

12. Daily contest prizes to be awarded as follows:

1st Place	\$40.00 & Trophy
2nd Place	\$30.00 & Trophy
3rd Place	\$20.00 & Trophy
4th Place	Medal
5th Place	Medal
6th Place	Medal
7th Place	Medal

All participants will receive ribbons.

13. Best of Fair Championship prizes to be awarded as follows:

1st Place	\$150.00 & Trophy
2nd Place	\$100.00 & Trophy
3rd Place	\$ 75.00 & Trophy
4th Place	\$ 50.00 & Trophy
5th Place	Medal
6th Place	Medal
7th Place	Medal

A group dressing area will be provided. The stage area is approximately 16' x 32' and raised 3 1/2 ft.

Judges' scores will be mailed after the fair is over to the entrants who supply us with a self-addressed, stamped envelope, prior to the end of the fair. Please include the name of your act, category, performance number, date of performance and if a Mini or Maxi Division contestant. No requests received after the fair is over will be honored.

For further information please contact:

Audrey Poitras
899-2646

Saratoga County Fair Office
885-9701