

## *Miss BC High School Rodeo ~ 2012 Judges Handbook*

Thank you for taking the time to judge our BC High School Rodeo Queen Event, your support is greatly appreciated! The purpose of this handbook is to help make the judging process easier for you by providing a few general guidelines.

### **Horsemanship: /50**

Good basic riding skills must be demonstrated by each contestant, her riding skills and control of her mount should be at least ½ of the score for the pattern.

- Good body line (ear-shoulder-hip-heel in a straight line), not leaning forward or back
- Seat stays in the saddle – rider is able to catch the rhythm of her horse
- Quiet hands
- Tall, confident upper body posture
- Control of mount at all times
- Pattern is completed correctly
- Speed changes as required are definite
- Horse is on the correct lead
- NO POSTING during trot
- Rider appears relaxed & confident
- Lead changes may be flying or simple – but CORRECT – only 1-2 jog steps in simple change
- Flag should be held straight (perpendicular to the ground), rider should not be “leaning” on the flag
- Contestant and horses should be well turned out – clean horse and tack, split reins preferred but not mandatory
- The saddle horn or cantle should not be held at any time during the pattern including stops (min. 10 point deduction)
- No switching hands on the reins
- Unless using a snaffle, one hand on the reins.
- Free hand & elbows are quiet
- Helmets may be worn with no penalty

Contestants may be mounted on rodeo horses and this should be taken into consideration when evaluating the horse’s performance (quality of lead changes, circling, frame, etc). However the walk and jog should be true - no prancing/sidestepping, etc. The lope and any faster pace must be controlled. The horse should not be fighting the bit, mouth gaped open, or show excessive resistance.

Contestant should enter the arena at a flat footed walk, on a relaxed rein.

Right lead lope departure at “A” should be crisp and with no or only 1 or 2 jog steps.

First figure eight should be at a fast, but controlled pace using the entire arena (about 6-8 feet off the rail). Second figure eight is smaller and slower, there should be a definite speed and size change.

After stopping at “B” the rider should allow her horse to stand for a moment. The lope to “D” should be at a brisk pace, but controlled. The horse should stop on its hindquarters, and then stand for a moment before performing a roll back away from the fence into the brisk lope to the gate. The horse should stand quietly at the gate for the contestant to receive the flag, and to return it. The flag lap and the presentation ride should be controlled; the pace is the contestant’s choice.

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### **Modeling: /25**

Contestants will present themselves with a simple “pageant” modeling pattern. This may or may not be performed with music however the purpose of this portion of the contest is to have the contestant demonstrate her ability to present herself to a crowd with poise and confidence, showing good posture and self carriage. Footfalls should be quiet, no dragging of the heels. Her “pattern” should be smooth, turns should not look awkward, and she should make eye contact and smile. Arm movements when walking should be controlled and to the minimum. Her presentation should be of the utmost class.

### **Impromptu Speech: /25**

Contestants will each draw a question at the completion of their modeling. This question may be on a random topic, or based on rule book knowledge. This provides the opportunity for the contestant to demonstrate her ability to think on her feet, and put her thoughts confidently into a coherent statement. The answer should come in the form of a short speech with a beginning, middle and end.

A random topic question will not have a right or wrong answer. With rule book questions the correct answer should be given some weight into the scoring process, but the contestants ability to provide the answer should be more strongly considered.

### **Prepared Speech: /50**

The prepared speech should be 2 minutes in length and the topic is “Speak About Your Country, State/Province or Anything with a Western Theme”. Speeches will be timed and time will be called at 2 minutes. The contestant may then finish the sentence she is speaking only.

The topic should be well thought out, and reflect maturity and intelligence. The speech must have an introduction, body and conclusion. Contestants will not introduce themselves during their speech as they will be introduced for their modeling.

Voice projection, quality of voice, clarity, and correct grammar, use of body language, eye contact, facial expression and overall confidence in the presentation should be the majority of the score. If contestants choose to move around the stage during their speech this should be done with confidence and purpose.

### **Personality: /25**

A contestant should project confidence and a positive, poised, approachable demeanor. This portion of the scoring process may be taken from observations of the contestants at ANY TIME during the contest, even when they are not the contestant actively presenting.

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### **Appearance: /25**

The dress code is the same for all contestants at a regional rodeo. This should make the scoring process easier. Contestants will be wearing blue 5-pocket jeans and a plain white shirt as dictated from the NHSRA rule book's horsemanship attire dress code. Variance from this dress code must receive a deduction of 5 marks per judge.

Jeans should be pressed, clean and NOT faded, as well as fitting properly. Jeans should cover the tops of the boots while riding so they will appear "stacked" when standing.

Shirts should be pressed, clean and well fitted. Back numbers should be secured in a manner that keeps it from flapping while riding.

Hat and boot color is the contestant's choice, but black is recommended. Contestants are urged to avoid the "fat-baby" style of boots (plain roper style presenting a more "professional" image). Boots should be clean and polished. Hat should be clean and well shaped, straw hats should NOT be used. Belt should be plain.

Helmets may be worn during the horsemanship portion of this competition and should not deduct from the contestants score – as long as the color choice is suitable.

Jewelry should be kept to a minimum and be appropriate for horsemanship (earrings that fit close to the ear, not dangly).

Contestant should be well groomed; hair neat (long hair should be pulled back), makeup appropriate, nails and hands clean (nail polish, if worn, should be neutral).

### **Comments:**

In an effort to help the contestants build confidence and improve their performance we ask that judges provide as much **constructive** feedback as possible for each contestant. You may provide verbal feedback if you wish to the contestants once the judging is completed and the scorecards are handed in, but written comments are very valuable. These comments will be removed from the handbook, typed and forwarded to each contestant by the queen committee. Please indicate the contestant that the feedback is for and any general comments for all of the contestants as well.

