



**Heartland Association of Fairs, Festivals & Events
YOUTH TALENT CONTEST**

GENERAL RULES

1. The age limits for each category are: under 13 for the junior division and 13 through 19 for the teen division. All contestants must be under 13 for the junior division and at least thirteen years of age and not more than nineteen (19) years of age for the teen division of the first day of the South Dakota State Fair, September 30, 2020.
2. Should any member in the junior division be 13 or older, the entire act will be moved to the teen division.
3. It is recommended that an act should run no more than three (3) minutes and under no circumstances run more than four (4) minutes. Any act running over four (4) minutes will be disqualified.
4. Baton twirlers or similar acts using baton or machetes, knives, etc. will not be accepted.
5. No fire, smoke or smoke effect will be allowed on stage during the South Dakota State Fair.
6. A contestant may enter only one category at the Youth Talent Contest.
7. No member of an Award-winning act may compete again at the State Youth Talent Contest.
8. A vocalist may change songs, or a dancer may change music or style of dance between the time local contest and State Final Contest time, if it does not alter the category.
9. All props must be inanimate, except for Variety Category.
10. Does not require state residency to participate at the Final Contest.
11. Once you qualify at a preliminary contest and are invited to the Final's Contest, you cannot compete in another contest. If you do, you are ineligible to participate at the Final's Contest.
12. In any vocal category, instrumental accompaniment by the persons in the act or others is allowed but must assume the pure character of accompaniment. No vocalist may play any musical instrument during the vocal performance, except for the purpose of accompaniment.
13. No voice, voices, record or tape with vocal utterance may be used for accompaniment by the contestants entered in any vocal category.
14. There must be no taps or tap effects on a taped recording used by a dancer.
15. In an instrumental solo, accompaniment is allowed, but must assume the pure character of accompaniment. The test shall be whether the solo performance would stand alone if accompaniment were removed.
16. In an instrumental solo, accompaniment must be piano, either taped or live.
17. In a Band/Instrumental Group, no accompaniment is allowed. All performers on stage must meet the age qualifications of the HAFPE Youth Talent Contest.
18. In any dance category, accompanists are permitted on stage, but must not assume visual importance in the performance.
19. In a Variety act, all persons assuming visual importance in the act must meet the age qualifications of the HAFPE Youth Talent Contest. Combination of categories is allowed, but the individual category rules will apply.
20. Performers must provide any equipment necessary to perform their act, i.e. props, music stands, etc.



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CATEGORY DESCRIPTION

The Heartland Association Youth Talent Committee reserves the right to assign contestants to what it believes to be the proper categories. Any questions shall be resolved immediately by the HAFFE Youth Talent Coordinator and their decision is final. The following is a list of categories and description of each. These are used as guidelines and are subject to interpretation by the HAFFE Youth Talent Coordinator.

VOCAL SOLO

Vocal solo - shall consist of solo performance. Instrumental accompaniment by herself or others is allowed but must assume the pure character of accompaniment. No vocalist may play any musical instrument during the vocal performance except for the purpose of accompaniment. The test shall be whether the performance would stand-alone if the accompaniment were removed. FOR CONTESTANTS ENTERED IN ANY VOCAL CATEGORY, ACCOMPANIMENT TRACKS WITH VOCAL UTTERANCE ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED. THIS INCLUDES RECORDED LIVE VOICES AND VOICES THAT ARE PRODUCED AND RECORDED SYNTHETICALLY (i.e. SYNTHESIZERS OR DIGITALLY SAMPLES).

VOCAL GROUP

Vocal group shall consist of two or more vocalists. Instrumental accompaniment by themselves or others is allowed but must assume the pure character of accompaniment. Acts in which the instrumental accompaniment assumes equal importance with the vocal performance will be assigned to BAND/INSTRUMENTAL GROUP upon the recommendation of the Youth Talent Coordinator. No vocalist may play any musical instrument during the vocal performance, except for the purpose of accompaniment. FOR CONTESTANTS ENTERED IN ANY VOCAL CATEGORY, ACCOMPANIMENT TRACKS WITH VOCAL UTTERANCE ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED. THIS INCLUDES RECORDED LIVE VOICES AND VOICES THAT ARE PRODUCED AND RECORDED SYNTHETICALLY (i.e. SYNTHESIZERS OR DIGITALLY SAMPLES).

BAND/INSTRUMENTAL GROUP

Band/Instrumental group shall consist of any group of two (2) or more persons, with or without vocal, using amplified or non-amplified instruments and/ or rhythm section (i.e. drum, acoustic or electric bass, piano or electric piano). No accompaniment is allowed. All performers on the stage must meet the age qualifications of the HAFFE Youth Talent Contest.

INSTRUMENTAL SOLO

Instrumental solo shall consist of solo instrumental performance without vocal utterance. The only accompaniment allowed is a live or taped acoustical piano. In piano solo, no accompaniment is allowed.

DANCE SOLO

Dance solo shall consist of solo performance by a male or female dancer. There must be no tap or tap effects on a taped recording used by a dancer. Accompanists are permitted on the stage but must not assume visual importance in the performance. Vocal performance by a solo dancer will not be judged. ACROBATIC OR GYMNASTIC MOVEMENTS ARE ALLOWED.

DANCE GROUP

Dance group shall consist of a performance of two or more dancers. There must not be taps or tap effects on a taped recording used by a dancer. Accompanists are permitted on stage but must not assume visual importance in the performance. ACROBATIC OR GYMNASTIC MOVEMENTS ARE ALLOWED.

VARIETY

Variety shall consist of one or more persons and intended to provide a proper showcase for those acts which are truly dependent upon the display of multiple talents of equal importance. COMBINATIONS OF CATEGORIES (such as Song and Dance) IS ALLOWED, but the individual category rules apply. Performers who fit the description of another category may not appear in the Variety category.

NOTE: *The Youth Talent Contest does not judge baton performances or any performance of this character - machetes, knives, etc. Attempt to circumvent this rule shall cause disqualification. No fire, smoke or smoke effect will be allowed on the stage during the Youth Talent Contest.*

**Heartland Association of Fairs, Festivals & Events Youth Talent Contest
DEFINITION OF A PROFESSIONAL ENTERTAINER**

The HAFPE Youth Talent Contest is designed for competition among amateur entertainers. A professional entertainer is hereby defined as one who earns more than one-half his normal living expenses by performing in any of the categories of competition participating in the Youth Talent Contest (i.e. a professional dancer may not compete in the Youth Talent Contest and an amateur singer, musician, etc.). A professional is further defined for Youth Talent purposes as one who is a union member or one who has signed a contract with a professional agent or manager who is paid with either salary or commission for services rendered in securing employment in the entertainment field. Furthermore, an entertainer who sings or otherwise performs on any record released for commercial distribution through normal retail outlets shall be considered a professional by the Youth Talent. This does not prohibit an entertainer from self-producing a record for sale or distribution to friends and associates such as in church group activities.

If an entertainer should be designated a professional for any of the above reasons and his circumstances should change, which possibly would permit him to renounce his professional standing, he may apply to the Youth Talent for declaration of his amateur standing. For example, if any entertainer should disassociate himself from a managerial contract, he may wish to petition Youth Talent for such a declaration. Similarly, he would apply for reinstatement as an amateur for Youth Talent purposes. Such request for reinstatement shall each be reviewed on an individual basis and shall be entirely at the discretion of the Youth Talent Contest Committee.

NOTE: If a contestant has been determined to be a professional and wishes to submit a protest or ask reinstatement as an amateur, this must be done within ten (10) days for determination of professional standing. The petition must be submitted to the HAFPE Youth Talent Coordinator – PO Box 181, West Fargo, ND 58072, to be reviewed by the Youth Talent contest Committee.