

Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions

Canadian Youth Talent Competition

RULES AND REGULATIONS

The following rules and regulations have been developed for the use of fair organizations participating in the Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions (C.A.F.E.) Canadian Youth Talent Competition. All recognized fairs, exhibitions, and agricultural societies in Canada are welcome to participate in the program.

Objective of the Program

The primary objective of the Canadian Youth Talent Competition is to encourage young Canadians to develop and advance their performing arts talents.

Role of Fair Organizations

The role of fair organizations is to provide the venue, organization, and opportunity for young Canadians to demonstrate their performing arts talent in a competitive environment that encourages participation, evaluation, and a learning experience.

General Rules and Regulations

The general rules and regulations apply to all youth talent programs conducted by fair organizations.

1. Participants must be between 13 and 21 years of age. All contestants must be at least 13 years old and no more than 21 years old at the date of the local fair's competition.
2. All contestants must be of amateur status. For the purpose of this contest, a professional entertainer is: a) One who earns more than one-half of his or her income by performing in any of the categories of competition (ie: a professional dancer may not compete in the contest as a singer, musician, etc.) or b) One who is a union member (i.e. A.F. of M., ACTRA) or c) One who has a professional agent or manager who is, or will be, paid a fee for securing employment in the entertainment field, or d) One who sings or otherwise performs on any recording released for commercial distribution through normal retail outlets. (This does not prohibit an entertainer from self-producing a record for sale or distribution to friends and associates or performing on a self-produced recording of a school or church choir group for charitable fundraising purposes.)
3. There are seven (7) categories of acts for the Canadian Youth Talent Competition as follows:
 - Vocal Solo
 - Instrumental Solo
 - Dance Solo
 - Dance Group (up to 5)
 - Vocal and/or Instrumental Group (up to 5)
 - Variety Solo
 - Variety Group (up to 5)

Baton twirlers or similar acts using batons, machetes, knives, fire or pyrotechnics will not be accepted.

Competition categories are for the purpose of scheduling performers, clarifying eligibility and determining judging criteria only. At local competitions, each category may be judged separately with



a first and second place overall being declared. However, at regional/zone and national competitions, each act will be judged against each other act, regardless of category.

4. Contestants will be judged on the following criteria:

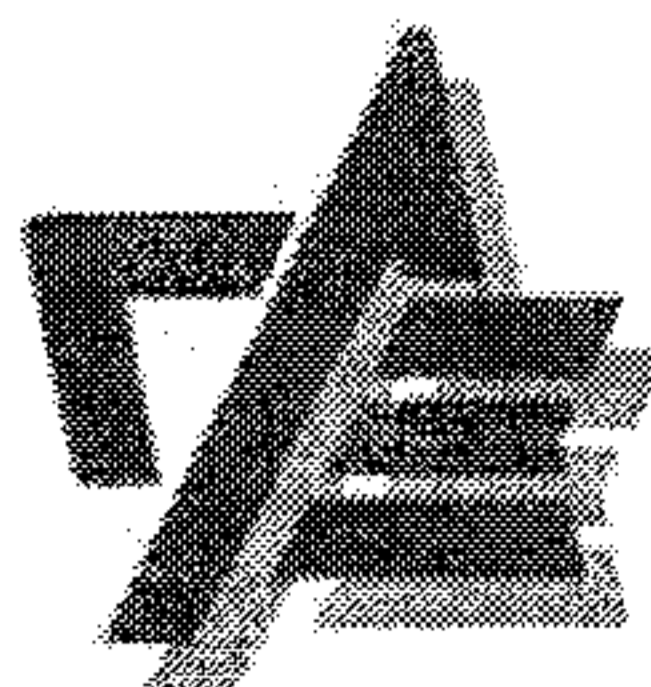
Natural ability
Quality of performance
Stage presence/showmanship
Audience rapport

The decision of the contest judges shall be final and no discussion regarding any decision shall be entered into by contest organizers at any time.

5. It is recommended that an act run no more than 3 minutes and under no circumstances run more than 4.5 minutes. Any act running more than 4.5 minutes will be disqualified. Timing begins with the first word, note, or action of the performance.
6. In a vocal category, instrumental accompaniment by the person in the act or others is allowed but must assume the pure character of accompaniment. The test shall be whether the performance would stand alone if the accompaniment were removed.
7. In an instrumental category, live or taped accompaniment is allowed but must assume the pure character of accompaniment and no instrument of the same nature as the performance may be used for the accompaniment. The test shall be whether the performance would stand alone if the accompaniment were removed.
8. No voice, voices, record, CD, or tape with vocal utterance may be used for accompaniment by contestants in a vocal category.
9. In the dance categories, accompanists are permitted on stage but must not assume visual importance in the performance. There must be no taps or tap effect on a taped recording or CD used by a dancer.
10. No contestant can participate in more than one regional/zone competition in the same year.
11. No participant in the Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions Canadian Youth Talent Competition shall be eligible to compete in any subsequent Canadian Youth Talent Competition.

Local Competition Rules

1. A contestant may enter only once as a solo performer and only once as a member of a group in any one category.
2. All contests must be judged and one (1) first place overall winner named as well as one (1) second place overall winner named. Winners in individual categories may also be named.
3. There should be a minimum of three (3) judges for the finals of local contests. Judges should be at least 22 years of age. Each of the three (3) principal performance disciplines (vocal, instrumental, and dance) should be represented by one (1) or more qualified members of the judging panel.



4. The first place overall winner at local competitions will be invited to participate in the regional/zone competition for their area. In the event the first place overall winner is unable to attend, an invitation will be extended to the second place overall winner.
5. An individual can not be part of an act at the Canadian Youth Talent Competition if he/she does not appear in the act at the local and at the regional/zone levels.
6. The local fair is responsible for transportation and accommodation expenses for their representative(s) at the regional/zone competition.

Regional/Zone Competitions

1. All rules and regulations apply to every level of the competition from the preliminary contest through the Canadian Youth Talent Competition.
2. Local winners advancing to a regional/zone competition are not required to compete in preliminary competitions. Participants from local competitions should all enter regional/zone finals at the same level of competition.
3. The fair hosting the regional/zone competition is responsible for providing a fully equipped venue, qualified judges, an MC, and personnel to organize and conduct the competition.
4. The fair hosting the regional/zone competition should establish communications with fair organizations in their areas at least three (3) months prior to the regional/zone final to determine their intentions to send a contestant to the regional/zone competitions. Please provide details of the regional/zone competition to all local fairs conducting a competition and encourage their participation.
5. Fair organizations hosting a regional/zone competition are responsible for providing transportation, accommodation, and meals for zone winners to attend Canadian Youth Talent Competition. There is a \$500.00 registration fee to participate in the Canadian Youth Talent Competition.
6. If, for any reason, a regional/zone winner is unable to attend the Canadian Youth Talent Competition, the second place winner will be invited.

Canadian Youth Talent Competition

1. The Canadian Youth Talent Competition takes place each November during the Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions annual convention.
2. The Canadian Youth Talent Competition is organized and directed by C.A.F.E. in consultation with the Youth Talent Steering Committee. C.A.F.E. is ultimately responsible for all arrangements and activities that take place. C.A.F.E. and the Board of Directors in consultation with the Steering Committee reserve the right to make any decisions respecting the conduct of the Canadian Youth Talent Competition.