

Official Rules and Regulations

1. QUALIFICATION FOR ENTRY/AGE AND LEVEL OF ENTRANT

The competition is open to any resident within the Greater Bay Area between the ages of 4 thru 26. Age of entrant on the last day of this year's competition determines entrants' participation in any age division. (Entrant may be either amateur or professional)

2. CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

Participants understand and recognize the risks of physical injury inherent in dance and dance performance and willingly assume responsibility for those conditions of participation at their own risk. It is agreed and understood that participants will not hold Youth Focus, Inc., its agent's directors, officers, employees or the Competition Officials, liable for injuries sustained or illnesses contracted by them when in attendance and/or participating in any phase of the competition. Participants give their permission to Youth Focus, Inc. to use their photographs or appearance in video taping in connection with advertising or news coverage of the Competition.

3. LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION

To provide equitable competition the following levels of participation will be established provided there are sufficient entries to establish such designations:

- **GENERAL DIVISIONS** Students who have studied more than three years.
- **NOVICE DIVISIONS** Students who have studied three years or less.

Novice and General Divisions will be combined if there are inadequate entries to constitute independent divisions.

4. DIVISIONS

Divisions are divided/grouped according to age whenever possible. If there is insufficient participation in any Division, ages will be grouped according to mixed ages.

5. ENTRY FEES

- **SINGLE ENTRY--\$50.00 PER ENTRY**
- **DOUBLES--\$25.00 per person PER ENTRY**
- **GROUP ENTRIES-- \$60.00 for groups of three or more**

PAYMENT WILL BE MADE THROUGH PAYPAL (no personal account is necessary) FOR ON-LINE ENTRIES OR CREDIT CARD PAYMENT MAY BE TAKEN OVER THE PHONE. If payment by check is necessary, MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO YOUTH FOCUS, INC. & MAIL TO 1901 COTTLE AVE., SAN JOSE, CA 95125. THERE WILL BE A \$20.00 FEE CHARGED ON ALL RETURNED CHECKS.

Entry fees shall be paid in advance. No money will be collected for entries during the conduct of the competition. NO REFUNDS will be given to participants who fail to appear at the competition or for improperly filed entries. All entry forms must be filled out properly with the correct information. Each entry/act will be considered a separate entry and will be charged a separate entry fee accordingly.

6. LENGTH OF ACT

LENGTH OF TIME FOR ENTRIES AND PERFORMANCE TIMES SHALL NOT EXCEED:

- **Five (5) minutes in length for all Vocal and Dance performances**
- **Seven (7) minutes in length for all Instrumental performances**

An official TIMEKEEPER will time all performances. Any act exceeding the official time limit will be assessed a 50% penalty off the Final Ballot and will be precluded from receiving the Overall Grand Champion placement.

7. ENTRY LIMITATIONS

There are no entry limitations. Participants may enter as many times as they desire with **each entry being charged a separate entry fee accordingly.**

8. GROUPS WITH MIXED AGES SHALL BE AVERAGED

For all doubles and groups, the average age determines the age division into which the entry should be made. Achieve average age by adding the ages of all the entrants, then divide by the number of entrants. When an average age ends in .5 or above, round off to the next age Division.

9. QUALIFICATION OF DIVISIONS

Divisions are graded according to age, whenever possible, and judged upon the AMERICAN SYSTEM OF JUDGING (see details in item 10). Any division with less than three (3) entries may be moved to the next OLDEST available age division qualifying for competition in accordance with the specifications of entry, i.e., singles to singles, doubles to doubles, and groups to groups. In the case of Doubles Entries, if there are less than three (3) Doubles entered, Doubles will be moved to Groups. Novice and General Divisions will be combined if there are inadequate entries to constitute independent stand-alone divisions. When there are inadequate entries within a specific Division the entry will be judged as a single entry adjudicated on the DANISH SYSTEM of judging and awarded a Gold, Silver or Bronze level award.

10. JUDGING

- Participants will be judged by a panel of competent and knowledgeable judges. Entrants and parents agree that the time, manner and method of Judging shall be solely within the discretion of the Competition Officials and Youth Focus Inc. and the decision of its judges will be final in all cases.
- Communication between entrants, friends, parents, or instructors with the Judges is to be restricted.
- If an act (participant/entrant) does not complete his/her performance for any reason EXCEPT for mechanical or technical difficulty relating to the competition equipment, the ACT/ENTRY will not be judged nor rescheduled for re-audition/performance.
- Entrants shall not be judged down for mechanical or technical difficulty due to the failure of applicable equipment or for slippery floor or stage conditions beyond entrant's control.
- Judges Rules Committee: Any discrepancies or questions which may arise relating to judging procedures, results, awards, etc. shall be referred to the Judges Rules Committee for consideration and deliberation. The decision of the Judges Rules Committee will be final in all cases.

The AMERICAN SYSTEM OF JUDGING is comparative judging in relationship to each entry within the Division. The system of judging ranks each act against one another WHERE BY THE TOP ENTRY IN THE EYES OF THE JUDGES IS AWARDED THE HIGHEST PLACEMENT, THE NEXT ACT THE NEXT HIGHEST PLACEMENT ETC. THE PLACEMENT IS BASED UPON A POINT SYSTEM THAT RANKS EACH PARTICIPANT BASED UPON A SET OF STANDARDS ESTABLISHED FOR COMPARATIVE JUDGING.

The DANISH SYSTEM OF JUDGING judges a single act upon the individual merit of the individual's performance without regard to any other act. The system of judging evaluates the talent presentation on its own merit against a recognized standard/scorecard on a point system for individual placement.

11. CHECK IN TIME

Participants are requested to check in for PERFORMANCE TIMES and REGISTER THEIR MUSIC FORTY-FIVE (45) MINUTES to ONE (1) HOUR BEFORE THEIR SCHEDULED PERFORMANCE TIME, except in the case of the very start of the competition in the morning, participants are requested to check in THIRTY (30) MINUTES BEFORE THEIR SCHEDULED TIME. Any participant who causes a delay in the competition will be penalized 25% OFF THE FINAL BALLOT.

In instances where the competition is running ahead of schedule, Competition Officials reserve the right to CLOSE THE DIVISION UP TO FORTY-FIVE (45) MINUTES BEFORE THE SCHEDULED PERFORMANCE TIME. THE PARTICIPANTS WILL BE DECLARED LATE AND IN VIOLATION OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE COMPETITION DISQUALIFYING THEM ACCORDINGLY AND WILL BEGIN THE NEXT AVAILABLE DIVISION.

12. SCHEDULING TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Competition Officials reserve the right to assign times and locations for PERFORMANCES at its discretion. The decision of the Competition Officials will be final in all cases regarding scheduling. **Should any participant protest and require a scheduling change, it must be submitted in writing, within 24 hours of receiving the scheduled date/time, where a \$25.00 fee must accompany the request.**

13. COSTUME/APPAREL

Acts must be presented and performed in costumes or apparel suitable to a youth public performance. Extremely low-cut necklines, revealing or French-Cut costumes will be considered inappropriate for youth public performances and will be judged down accordingly.

14. ACCOMPANIMENT FOR PARTICIPANT/ENTRANT PERFORMANCE

If recorded music is used for performance, the following rules will be strictly enforced:

- CD's must be marked to the selection to be used. A back up CD should be available in cases of emergencies. It is recommended that only one song be recorded on each CD!
- When using an iPhone, phone cases and passcodes must be removed, with music queued to exact start of song.
- Vocal performers in the Vocal Divisions may not perform a vocal solo to a professional recording with a professional vocal artist. However they may perform to background/backup singers that are created for vocal performance

15. EQUIPMENT A tuned grand or by grand piano, hand, stand or boom mic's (no wireless), CD player, iPhone and guitar amp connections (please bring your guitar specific cord). Please note you must use the competition sound equipment. You may not under any circumstances bring in your own equipment.

16. PRESENTATION OF ACTS

VOCAL PERFORMANCES--Movements may be incorporated in the presentation of the performance to accentuate the vocal performance and to carry out the theme of the song being presented. There is to be absolutely no dance routines incorporated in the presentation of any vocal performance. Tap and pointe' shoes are expressly prohibited from being used in any of the VOCAL PERFORMANCE divisions. *More extensive choreography may be used in the Broadway/Show Tunes Divisions in keeping with musical comedy/theater performances.* Acts must be family oriented equivalent to a G rating for public performance. Acts may depict conflict, which are to be enacted out or dramatized IN GOOD TASTE.

No special lighting such as black lights, or strobe lights will be permitted. Due to fire regulations, fire numbers are not permitted. Swords and knives on stage are prohibited. Props are allowed within the division if they are functional and relevant to the entrant's performance and must be free standing. Special hanging scenery or hanging backdrops are not permitted. There are to be no props used for decorative or aesthetic purposes whatsoever. PROPS THAT REQUIRE ELECTRICAL HOOK-UPS ARE EXPRESSLY PROHIBITED DUE TO SAFETY PROVISIONS AND TIME LIMITATIONS (ELECTRIC GUITARS ARE EXEMPTED FROM THIS RULE). Entrant and parents are solely responsible for the moving, on and off stage, of stage props, i.e., gymnastic equipment, acrobatic props, mats and other staging items. STAGE PROPS MUST BE ON STAGE WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME FRAME.

Any number utilizing theatrical makeup which causes a delay in the competition will be penalized a 50% PENALTY OFF THE FINAL BALLOT. AN ACT MUST BE READY TO PERFORM WHEN ANNOUNCED. THERE IS TO BE ABSOLUTELY NO FOOD OR DRINK IN THE AUDITORIUM and no smoking within 15 feet of the entrances. There is to be no PROFANITY in the presentation of any act or disrespectful reference to **DEITY** or the act will be disqualified.

17. GENERAL RULES OF CONDUCT

- **MISCONDUCT:** Any misconduct or use of profane language on the part of any teacher, parent, or spectator is prohibited. Poor sportsmanship i.e., booing, jeering, etc. will not be tolerated. Spectators and entrants shall give their undivided attention during all performances. There is to be no noise in the auditorium under any circumstances. Disqualification and /or 50% PENALTY will be imposed off the final ballot for misconduct
- **PETS:** No pets will be allowed under any circumstance in the competition areas except for Seeing Eye or hearing dogs.
- **PICTURE TAKING:** No picture taking of any kind will be allowed in any of the competition areas. This rule includes flash/non-flash or video cameras, iPhone or any other picture/recording device. A 50% PENALTY WILL BE IMPOSED OFF THE FINAL BALLOT FOR ANY INFRACTION IN THIS REGARD.
- **AUDIO RECORDING:** Audio recording is expressly prohibited. A 50% penalty will be imposed off the final ballot for violations of this rule.
- **INSTRUCTORS/COACHES TECHNICAL PENALTY:** Any Instructor/Coach or Teacher conducting themselves in an unprofessional manner, causing a disturbance, or acting in a manner which reflects hostility, poor sportsmanship, and sets a poor example for participants and spectators will under such circumstances be issued a technical penalty and barred from the balance of the competition.

18. ANY RULES NOT COVERED

Any rules not covered under these official rules and regulations will be governed by the TALENT COMPETITION Officials and Youth Focus, Inc.

19. APPLICATION DEADLINE On-line or emailed to youthfocustalent@gmail.com by **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2016**

20. LOST ARTICLES

Neither YOUTH FOCUS, INC. NOR THE COMPETITION OFFICIALS WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY LOST ITEMS OR DAMAGE TO ANY EQUIPMENT OR ARTICLES OF ENTRANTS.

21. PARKING Available in the school parking-lot across the street from, or on the street in front of, the auditorium. There is no charge for parking.

22. PROCEDURES

- Instructors are invited to the sound table when needed to adjust the speed of an entrant's music, to call mic cues for soloists/vocal groups or to assist in music played from an iPhone.
- Acts, which are, entered in error in any division by parents, teachers, or participants will be judged on the merit system of judging but will be disqualified for consideration in the AMERICAN SYSTEM OF JUDGING.

23. PROTEST PROCEDURES

Any individual wishing to file a protest must do so in accordance with the following provisions:

- Protest must be filed within one (1) hour of the alleged violation.
- Protest must be filed in writing and signed with the name of the individual submitting the protest. In addition, the individual filing the protest must give; FULL NAME, ADDRESS, CITY/STATE, ZIP CODE AND PHONE NUMBER, and must be accompanied by a \$100.00 cash payment, which is **non-refundable and non-transferable**. No checks will be accepted.
- Protests must be based upon violation of the rules and regulations of the competition. Judging results will be final in all cases and cannot be protested.
- Individuals filing protests must be able to show proof of violations. Protests will not be accepted predicated upon alleged situations or conjecture.
- All protests will be adjudicated by the Judges Rules Committee whose decision will be final in all cases. Protests will not be reopened for consideration after a ruling has been made by the Judges Rules Committee.
- Judging results are final in all cases and protests regarding judging results will not be accepted in any case.

24. PRINTING, TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR OR MISPRINTS

YOUTH FOCUS, INC. AND THE COMPETITION OFFICIALS WILL NOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY PRINTING, TYPOGRAPHICAL OR MISPRINT ERRORS. ERRORS IN THIS REGARD WILL BE ACTED UPON BY THE JUDGES RULES COMMITTEE AND ITS DECISION WILL BE FINAL IN ALL CASES. PLEASE NOTE: ON-LINE or TYPE-WRITTEN APPLICATIONS WILL HELP MINIMIZE MISPELLED NAMES, SONG TITLES AND ERRORS IN SCHEDULING.

•AWARDS•

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Each act entered receives an Achievement/Merit Award depending upon its placement and ranking.

AMERICAN SYSTEM OF JUDGING

Upon the completion of each division, the judges will cast a final ballot utilizing the AMERICAN SYSTEM OF JUDGING (See Section 10). Grand Champion placements will be awarded to the six acts in the Division garnering the highest number of points. Championship winners may be awarded more than one placement per division championship ballot where applicable.

DOUBLE GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP

Any act receiving a perfect score from the entire panel of judges, in the Overall Grand Championship placement will be constituted a Double Grand Champion.

TYPES AND KINDS OF AWARDS

Youth Focus, Inc. will determine the types and kinds of awards to be awarded solely at its discretion.

PICK UP OF AWARDS

AWARDS MUST BE PICKED UP ON THE DAY OF THE COMPETITION THEY ARE AWARDED OR THE AWARDS WILL BE FORFEITED BY THE ENTRANT(S)/PARTICIPANT(S) AND CANCELED WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE.