

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 attending a public event at a theater with steps, specialized stage flooring and stage equipment 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 videotaping 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** For students who have studied in excess of three years.
- **NOVICE DIVISIONS** For students who have studied three years or less.

Novice & 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 *Entry forms must be filled out COMPLETELY and properly, with the correct contact information, correct studio/teacher information and correct division*

- **SINGLE ENTRY--\$55.00 PER ENTRY**
- **DOUBLES & Group Entries--\$60.00 PER ENTRY**

PAYMENT WILL BE MADE THROUGH THE ON-LINE APPLICATION PROCESS UTILIZING EITHER PAYPAL (no personal account is necessary) OR CREDIT CARD.

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. NO REFUNDS will be given to improperly filed entries. All entry forms must be filled out properly with the correct information. Each performance/act will be considered a separate entry and will be charged a separate entry fee accordingly.

6. LENGTH OF ACT: PERFORMANCE TIMES SHALL NOT EXCEED:

- 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. ***Each act will be considered as a separate entry and will be charged a separate entry fee accordingly.***

8. GROUPS WITH MIXED AGES SHALL BE AVERAGED

For all doubles and groups, averaging the ages will determine the 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 (see details in item 10)

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 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. This 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. This system of judging evaluates the talent presentation on its own merit against a recognized standard/scorecard on a point system for individual placement.

•AWARDS•

- **ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS** Each act entered receives an Achievement/Merit Trophy 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. The Auditor then tallies the judge's scores where Grand Champion placements will be awarded to the act in the Division garnering the highest number of points. Championship winners may be awarded more than one placement per division championship ballot where applicable.
- **DANISH SYSTEM OF JUDGING** Upon completion of the individual performance, the judges separately determine the merit of the act without regard to any other act and cast their ballot accordingly. The Auditor then tallies the judge's scores where a Gold, Silver or Bronze trophy is awarded
- **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 in which they are awarded or they will be forfeited by entrant(s)/participant(s) and canceled without further notice

11. CHECK IN TIME

Participants are requested to check in for PERFORMANCE FORTY-FIVE (45) MINUTES to ONE (1) HOUR BEFORE THEIR SCHEDULED PERFORMANCE TIME, except in the case of the very start of the competition, 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 participants 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

Youth Focus does not provide pianist accompaniment for instrumental performances. **Accompanists are the sole responsibility of the party requiring such** accompaniment including any rehearsal time together, arranging to be at the theater at the required scheduled time, and no time will be permitted on the competition piano.

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

- CD's or USB 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, phone set to 'airplane mode' with music cued to exact start of music piece.

15. EQUIPMENT

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

16. PROCEDURES

- Instructors are invited to the sound table when needed to adjust the speed of an entrant's recorded music

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.
- **FOOD & DRINK:** Absolutely no food or drink, other than bottled water, will be allowed in the competition area
- **FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY & AUDIO RECORDING:** Flash photography & audio recording is expressly prohibited. A 50% penalty will be imposed off the final ballot for violations of this rule. A professional video of each participant will be available for purchase and photographs or video in the lobby is permissible.
- **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 by entry deadline www.youthfocusinc.org

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 front of the Competition building. There is no charge for parking.

22. 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.

23. 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 it's decision will be final in all cases.