

OFFICIAL RULES OF THE 2022 JERSEY COUNTY FAIR TALENT COMPETITION

1. All contestants must be residents of the state of Illinois (This show is open to all eligible persons, regardless of county).
2. Completed application forms must be emailed no later than 11:59 p.m. July 1, 2023.
3. All acts must pay a \$10 non-refundable entry fee if application is received on or before June 1st, or a \$20 fee received after (per ACT, not per person). If you choose to mail your application, you may submit payment with your application with either cash or check (checks are payable to the Jersey County Fair).
4. Any act that exceeds the **four-minute** performance time limit will be disqualified. Timing starts when the act starts entertaining (including choreographed entrances and exits).
5. Any act that exceeds the **three-minute** set up time limit will be disqualified. Timing starts when the first member of an act steps onto the stage. This rule, and the four-minute rule, are enforced because the state show follows the same format.
6. Instrumental accompaniment is allowed but must assume the pure character of accompaniment. The test shall be whether the performance would stand alone if the accompaniment is removed.
7. When using a CD/flash drive for accompaniment, it can NOT have **LIKE** talent on it, i.e., vocals, tap dancing, any like instrument, and so forth. **You must only have the one accompaniment track solely on it.** (A backup CD/flash drive is recommended, but not required.)
8. The first-place winner in both divisions is **obligated** to represent Jersey County at the state competition in January 2024. The show is normally held the Saturday before MLK Day. In the event that the 2023 Jersey County Fair Talent Competition first place winner in either division is unable to compete at the state competition in January 2024, **he/she/they will forfeit the award and the prize money**, and the runner up will represent Jersey County. The first place winners in both divisions will receive one-half of their prize money on July 11, 2023, and the remainder will be paid after they have represented Jersey County at the state competition in January 2024. The 2023 fair competition first place winners in both the junior and senior divisions are NOT eligible for competition in the 2024 Jersey County Fair Talent Competition, but are invited (not obligated) to perform at the 2024 talent competition as the retiring champions. Any act or member of an act that has ever received 1st Place at the IAAF State Talent Competition for **ANY** Illinois County is ineligible to compete in the local division of the same age category at the Jersey County Fair. Contestants in the 2023 Jersey County Fair Pageant are not eligible for the 2023 Jersey County Fair Talent Competition. Also, the retiring 2022-2023 queens are not eligible for the 2023 talent competition.
9. **Division Age information:** If you are **under 15 years old on the day of the competition**, you will compete in the Junior Division. **If you are 15 years old or older on the day of the competition**, you will compete in the Senior Division. If you are under 7 years old on or before the day of competition, you are ineligible. If you are 21 years old on or before the day of the talent show, you are ineligible. The age of the oldest member of an act determines the division they may enter.
10. A solo contestant may be involved in **ONE ACT ONLY**. A group/ensemble may only compete **ONCE**. The director reserves the right to modify this rule based upon his judgment should pre-existing groups have members that are in multiple organizations (i.e., Show Choir, Jazz Band, etc.) If an individual that is performing in a group act also wishes to compete in a solo act (or vice versa), he/she/they are allowed to do so, but cannot compete in more than one of each. **For the purposes of this rule**, a group/ensemble consists of four or more persons, while a solo act can include up to three people. The purpose for defining the solo act as it is considered for this competition is to provide leniency for individuals who may be involved in an ensemble but would still desire to perform in a duet or trio.
11. A professional sound system including hand held microphones with optional stands and piano will be the only equipment furnished.
12. A contestant that is considered "PROFESSIONAL" shall not be eligible for this contest. "PROFESSIONAL" is defined as anyone who is a talent union member, who has a professional manager, or whose principal and/or self-supporting income is derived from entertainment.
13. A MANDATORY dress rehearsal will be held prior to the night of the show. All acts and costumes must be approved. Failure to have your act approved will result in removal from the show and forfeit of application fee.
14. Costumes should be appropriate and FULL coverage. No bare midriffs will be allowed. If you have a concern about your costume you are encouraged to speak to Kallie Flowers. All Costumes MUST be approved at Dress Rehearsal.
15. This is a talent competition. The judging will be determined by the amount of talent and performance quality of the contestant(s). Judging sheets are not open to public review, and the decision of the judges is final.

Additional Information

The rules listed above are designed to mimic, as closely as possible, the rules that division winners must abide by at the IAAF State Talent Competition in January 2024. These procedures aim to provide a well-run event while at the same time preparing winners for their experience at the state level.

There are five placings in both divisions, with monetary prizes awarded in the top three placings.

Senior division monetary prizes:

- First place: \$300
- Second place: \$150
- Third place: \$50

Junior division monetary prizes:

- First place: \$200
- Second place: \$100
- Third place: \$50

All five placings in both divisions will receive a commemorative ribbon, following the tradition of the American agricultural fair. Ribbons and prize money are not awarded individually, but to the act. Thus, if an act consists of an ensemble or any group greater than a single contestant, the ribbon and prize money must be shared among the group.

Additionally, a People's Choice Award will be given in both divisions, to which the recipients will receive a commemorative certificate and \$25.00. The People's Choice will be determined by popular vote, with each spectator receiving one ticket with which they will get to vote for whomever they wish. So contestants, make sure to tell your friends and family to come out and support you!

Winners in both divisions will receive further information on the IAAF State Talent Competition immediately following the Jersey County Fair Talent Show. The state competition is held at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield during the annual IAAF State Convention, normally on the weekend immediately before Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Depending on the number of acts at the state show, Jersey County Fair's division winners and their families can expect to spend about five hours at the state show. The junior division usually begins its show in the early afternoon, and the senior division begins in the early evening. Jersey County Fair talent competition winners will be informed on the details regarding their number on the roster, precise time to arrive, and other particulars when that information is made available by the state talent competition director (which normally is announced in early December).

Placings receiving a monetary prize will be able to retrieve their earnings in the fair office following the show. The fair office is located in the green building by the west end of the grandstand. You are encouraged to retrieve your earnings immediately following the show.

Please contact Director Kallie Flowers for questions, comments, suggestions, or concerns at 618-972-3387 (call or text). You may also email him at kallieshires@gmail.com.

