



MAOTeen Competition Judging Guidelines

These are the rules to which all Miss America's Outstanding Teen Competitions must adhere. States may make rules that are more restrictive, but are not allowed to make the rules "less" restrictive.

The integrity of our judging system must remain infallible. Conflicts of interest and unfair judging cannot be tolerated. It is paramount that everyone does their due diligence when selecting and approving judges. In addition to being familiar with the "Judging Eligibility Rules", be sure to safeguard against anything that someone may "perceive" as a conflict of interest.

Enforcement of the Miss America's Outstanding Teen Judging Rules depends on your judges' honesty...please do not create an embarrassing or controversial situation for you, the judge, your local, your state, the Miss America's Outstanding Teen Organization, and especially the contestants!

MAOTeen Competition Judging Eligibility Rules

Limitations on the number of competitions each person can judge a Miss America's Outstanding Teen Local or State competition during each "Competition Year":

- Maximum of two (2) State MAOTeen Competitions Nationwide in a Competition Year
- Maximum of four (4) Local MAOTeen Competitions Nationwide in a Competition Year. 'Double' or 'Dual' Local Competitions count as 2 Competitions in the same Competition Year. 'Holdover' Local Competitions count for the next Competition Year.

(Exception to this policy is made under unusual circumstances and only with permission from the Miss America's Outstanding Teen Organization National Office).

Individuals who may **not** judge:

1. Anyone under the age of 21 years.
2. A current Miss America system National, State or Local titleholder.
3. Individuals, their company/business partners, immediate family*, domestic partner or significant other who might benefit, financially or otherwise, from working with contestants in any capacity within the Miss America or Miss America's Outstanding Teen Programs. This includes pageant coaches, pageant vocal coaches, pageant wardrobe retailers, hairdressers and make-up artists, fitness trainers, interview coaches, choreographers, or any other profession that works directly with contestants. This also means that a person who works with any contestant may not judge any other contestant, not just the ones with whom they work.

(*Immediate family is defined as a parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, sibling, aunt, uncle, niece, and nephew, whether by whole or half blood, or by marriage, including step-children, adoption, or natural relation.)

4. Individuals who are related to contestants through blood relation, by marriage, through business contacts (including with contestants' families) or social contacts (including with contestants' families) may not judge those contestants.
5. Relatives of a contestant may not judge any state or local competition.
6. State Board members may not judge locals within the state they serve.
7. Relatives of State or Local Board members may not judge the State or Local competition for which their relative serves as a Board member. One should also use discretion using any person

who could appear to compromise the integrity of the judging process, including business associates or social contacts of State or Local Board members.

8. Former contestants and their immediate family (please refer to #3 for definition of immediate family), whether from a local, state, or national Miss America Competition, Miss America's Outstanding Teen Competition, or a competition similar in nature, and regardless if they won one of said competitions, cannot judge until a minimum of three (3) years after they have stopped competing and may never judge any contestant with whom they have competed. "Stopped competing" is defined as either "ages out", gets married, won a state title, or otherwise can no longer compete in the Miss America Program.
- 8(a). Women of competition age (21 or older), or the immediate family of a woman of competition age, may judge if it is proven that there is no desire or intention to compete in a Miss America, Miss America's Outstanding Teen, or similar competition. However, if the status of a potential judge changes concerning this rule, the prospective judge must withdraw prior to fulfilling the duties of a judge. If a status change occurs after judging a Miss America, Miss America's Outstanding Teen or similar competition, it is understood that the above rule (#8) supersedes this statement.
9. An individual may not judge any contestant at the State level whom they judged in any other competition, including but not limited to the MAOTeen program, for a period of four (4) years. Only at the Local level may an individual judge a contestant whom they previously judged. However, they must do so with absolute objectivity and without bias. It is important the Local organization, to the best of their ability, limit the number of judges who have previously judged the competing contestants.
10. Judges who are related by blood or marriage, romantically involved, business associates, or roommates may not serve on the same judging panel.
11. While it is not a violation of the rules to use a person from another competition system, except in the event the person serves, has served, or plans to serve as an official, key position, partner, sponsor, employee, spokesperson or titleholder, discretion is required and the MAOTeen judging process must not be used in any way to promote another competition system, especially in the judge's printed bio.
12. Judges may not judge the same competition two consecutive years. This applies to both local and state competitions.
13. State organizations may not use two individuals from the same state competition in the same year. In addition, state organizations may not use two individuals from the same state competition for two consecutive years.
14. At the Local level, two individuals from the same local competition may judge another local in the same year, but no members of a local Board may judge the same local for two consecutive years.
15. Sponsors, partners and donors (financial or in-kind), including their employees or family members may not judge a competition they support.
16. State organizations may have rules regarding local judging which are more restrictive, but not contradictory to the rules mentioned above. In addition to the MAOTeen Judging Eligibility Rules, please be aware that the State organization makes final determination on additional rules regarding judging for its Locals. If you have a question regarding the interpretation of these rules as they apply to Local competitions, please contact your State competition office for clarification.