



**July 23-28, 2024**

[www.saratogacountyfair.org](http://www.saratogacountyfair.org)

Saratoga County Agricultural Society 162 Prospect Street, Ballston Spa, NY 12020 518-885-9701 (ph) 518-885-5320 (fax)

## **SARATOGA COUNTY FAIR TALENT CONTEST RULES AND REGULATIONS 2024**

1. Time limit for each act must not exceed five minutes. Any act running over this will be disqualified. Acts will be timed.
2. Bands, baton twirlers or acts presenting a safety hazard will not be accepted.
3. Contestants must be strictly amateur. They must not be/have been under contract for reimbursement for their performance. Performers holding union cards are not eligible. Expense money is not considered reimbursement for performance.
4. Contestants may perform a maximum of three times in Open Events and three times in State Events. **ONE (1) solo and a member of only TWO (2) other groups or THREE (3) groups with no solo.** A group is defined as a performance with two (2) or more participants. If this rule is violated, the contestant and group will be disqualified.
5. The 50% rule will be strictly adhered to concerning groups. In a duo, if one contestant is 12 and under and the other is 13 and over, they will compete in the Maxi Division. In a group of three or larger, if 50% or more of the group is 13 and over, they will compete in the Maxi Division. No one over the age of 14 may perform or be a part of a Mini Division Group, including accompanists.
6. With the increasing number of participants, it is advised to register early for contestants 12 & under. Please submit a copy of each contestant's birth certificate with application. Incomplete entry forms will not be considered. **Once the application has been accepted any substitutions for performer, music or routine must be made in writing. No applications will be accepted by phone.**

**Only contestants planning to advance to the State Fair Talent Showcase should submit applications to State Fair qualifying events. All other contestants should make application to Open events.**

**To enter the State Fair Talent Showcase, an individual must first compete and be one of the top 25 winners in a County Mini State or Maxi State Talent Show. You may compete at any County Fair. You must however, be a resident of New York State. It is up to the discretion of the host county fair to accept or decline applications from non-county residents.** The deadline for entering is five days after the final competition of the County Fair that you participate in. Upon winning, and if you are eligible, the County Fair Chairperson will forward the appropriate paperwork to the New York State Fair. Expenses for the State Fair are the responsibility of the individuals.

7. The judges' decisions are final. Judges will score based on:
  - a. Technique/Natural Ability 1-30 points
  - b. Execution/Choreography, Quality of Performance 1-30 points
  - c. Stage Presence and Showmanship 1-20 points

In case of a tie, judges will score based on execution/choreography and quality of performance - 1-30 points.

8. Contestants must provide their own music in the form of a CD, flash drive, or may download onto a smart phone (make sure your ear bud plug-in works). Please bring back up music (in a different format if possible) in case there are any issues. If a contestant uses an accompaniment for a vocal solo, it should not contain a vocal solo on it, only backup vocals or accompaniment.

Keyboards are not provided but may be used. Sound equipment will be available.

9. Winning contestants, i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th of **all Mini and Maxi** competitions may be eligible to compete on Sunday for Best of Fair. The first three winning contestants from the **7 and Under** category will also be eligible to compete for Best of Fair. For Best of Fair a contestant may compete a maximum of **Three (3) times** and must limit participation to **ONE (1) solo, TWO (2) groups or THREE (3) groups with no solo. If a contestant qualifies more than three (3) times between the Open and State events he/she must limit the choices to three (3) performances.**

All acts in Best of Fair competition must remain the same as performed in the qualifying event. Group performances may not have substitute or additional performers. However, deletions of performers in group acts are acceptable. **Contestants must inform Mrs. Ritota if unable to compete in Best of Fair so alternates can be notified.**

10. Prompts or queuing from the audience is not allowed when contestants are performing. 5 points will be deducted.

11. Contestants may compete on multiple nights (both open and state divisions) but must be a different act.

12. Teachers are not permitted to compete in their professional talent, e.g. a dance teacher could not compete as a dancer. An unpaid teacher is eligible to compete.

13. There is no entry fee required. However, an admission ticket to the grounds must be purchased.

14. Daily contest prizes to be awarded as follows:

1st Place	\$40.00 & Trophy
2nd Place	\$30.00 & Trophy
3rd Place	\$20.00 & Trophy
4th Place	Special Large Ribbon
5th Place	Special Large Ribbon
6th Place	Special Large Ribbon
7th Place	Special Large Ribbon

All contestants will receive participation ribbons.

15. Best of Fair Championship prizes to be awarded as follows:

1st Place	\$150.00 & Plaque
2nd Place	\$100.00 & Plaque
3rd Place	\$ 75.00 & Plaque
4th Place	\$ 50.00 & Special Large Ribbon
5th Place	Special Large Ribbon
6th Place	Special Large Ribbon
7th Place	Special Large Ribbon

A group dressing area will be provided. The stage area is approximately 16' x 32' and raised 3 1/2 ft.

Judges' scores will be mailed after the fair is over to the entrants who supply us with a self-addressed, stamped envelope, prior to the end of the fair or you may request they be emailed to you. Please include the name of your act, category, performance number, date of performance and if a Mini or Maxi Division contestant. No requests received after the fair is over will be honored.

For further information please contact:

Kasie Ritota (518) 669-8511  
Saratoga County Fair Office (518) 885-9701