



## Judges' Protocol

The Judges' Protocol will help avoid pitfalls and embarrassment.  
Thank you for adhering to these rules of protocol.

- DO NOT DISCUSS THE CANDIDATES WITH EACH OTHER OR ANY ONE ELSE, EVER! Please maintain confidentiality at all times.
- Judge each candidate by the same criteria and give each candidate your undivided attention during the competition. Give the last candidate the same attention and consideration as the first candidate.
- Look for the potential in each candidate and ask what she could do at the next level of competition.
- Judges may applaud production numbers, guest introductions and **candidates as a group, but not individually**. Judges may applaud for any other performances (i.e. the current titleholder or entertainer). Remember that a judge is NOT a member of the audience.
- Conversations at the judges table should be extremely limited, as you are in full view of the audience.
- Observe each candidate as she competes, and mark your score directly after each one finishes.
- Do not score easier or more difficult as the competition continues.
- Remember, candidates are not competing against each other.
- Do not share your scoring with anyone or compare scores.
- If you make a change or erasure on your score sheet you must initial it before handing it in. Remember to sign your score sheets.
- Do not make any comment about the judging process or any candidate after the competition is over. You are PROHIBITED from making evaluative statements about the candidate with a parent, coach, competition official, or any other person, except to an Executive Director as set forth below.
- Do not openly disagree with the outcome of the competition. Remember the balloting process is the result of a consensus.
- When the winner is announced, please stand and applaud.
- Do not provide a critique on the competition or a candidate. You may, as a group, provide constructive evaluation of the winner only to the Executive Director, or a person designated by the Executive Director, IF a critique is requested by the Executive Director. Do not discuss any other candidate.
- Judges must dress appropriately for all phases of competition and conduct themselves in a professional and appropriate manner at all times
- All candidates' paperwork in a judge's possession must be disposed in a manner which will protect the confidentiality of the judging process and the candidate's privacy.

- If you have a question or concern, please speak to the Head Judge or Judges' Chairperson.
- Please avoid making comparisons about the competition with other competitions; about a candidate with other candidates; about titleholders of other competitions with the candidates.
- Take care when visiting with others in areas away from the competition. You never know who is sitting or standing near you, or possibly, with whom you are speaking.
- Judges should not be in the company of candidates outside normal judging duties, including social events prior to the crowning.
- Turn off all electronic devices during all phases of competition.

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Miss Iowa Scholarship Program  
PO Box 1595, Davenport, IA 52809