



Competition Scoring Criteria & Phases of Competition

IMPORTANT NOTE: State & Local leadership must impart to all Miss America/Miss America's Teen delegates that categories and scoring percentages may change at the National Competition

Number of Panelists

The State and Local Organizations may choose a panel with at least 5 and no more than 7 members. Olympic Scoring System to be used, — subject to the “missing” (former ‘sick’) judge rule— high and low scores are dropped. At least one (1) panelist must be a novice to the program (more are preferred), meaning they have never served as a judge/panelist in local, state, or a national level competition.

Local Miss/Teen and State Miss/Teen Values (less than 9 contestants no final ballot*)

Single Night/Preliminary Night

· Private Interview	30%
· Talent/HERStory™	20%
· Health & Fitness	20%
· Evening Gown	20%
· On Stage Conversation	10%

Final Night Values

· Composite Score (multi)	30%
· Talent/HERStory™	20%
· Health & Fitness	20%
· Evening Gown	20%
· On Stage Conversation (Semi Finalists)	10%

** A Top 5 ballot will be utilized for Miss/Teen State single night (10 delegates or more) and final night (multi evening) competitions. For the purpose of clarification, no final ballot is used for Locals, or preliminary night competitions. Single night State competitions with 9 or less delegates competing must not use a final ballot.*



Private Interview- 30%

Wardrobe: Delegates Choice - Stylish Interview Attire (age appropriate)

Timing: 30 second opening, 9-minute Q&A, optional 30 second wrap up or closing statement.

Fact Sheet & Community Service Initiative (CSI) Statement:

- State/Local Organizations will use the same Fact Sheet throughout the competition year.
- Community Service Initiative (CSI) submission is a one sheet document in which the delegate responds in a short essay regarding her personal CSI.
- Sample of the Fact Sheet and CSI will be provided.

Procedures

- Format decided must be uniform for all delegates.
- The delegate may be seated at a table or standing at a podium.
- Each delegate is introduced by the panelist chair and will take her position and immediately present a brief 30-second introduction/CSI overview. Once the CSI intro is completed, the panelists begin the interview.
- At (9:30) nine-minute thirty second mark, timekeeper indicates (30) seconds remaining for interview. The Panelist Chair will inform the delegate of remaining time and delegate may choose to use the time to finish her response to the last question or proceed in a closing statement.
- At the 10-minute mark, the timekeeper stands, and the head panelist indicates the interview time is up. Concluding that delegate's private interview phase.

Purpose - Allows Insight Into the delegate's:

- Ability to fulfill the qualifications, responsibilities, duties, and term of the titleholder.
- Personal qualities and attributes relevant to the titleholder position.
- Commitment to her community service initiative or CSI.
- Ability to express her own beliefs in an authentic and relatable manner.
- Sense of accomplishments /goals above and beyond the fact sheet.
- Spontaneity, intelligence, sense of humor, charm and charisma.
- Authenticity and ability to answer questions in a conversational, unrehearsed manner.
- Ability to serve as a role model and if she is reflective of her generation.



Health & Fitness - 20%

Wardrobe:

Director or delegate's choice of fitness outfit, silhouettes outlined by MA style guide, but determined at local/state level. Examples of Fitness Wear options include yoga/dance/athletic wear. Judges to evaluate the following: Overall First impression of a Dynamic Presence, Radiates Health, High Energy, Engaging Vitality, and a Sense of Confidence.

Procedure:

- The organization will present each delegate in a pre-blocked, high energy stage routine with movement and posing.
- Each delegate will not exceed 20-30 seconds.
- No props are allowed.
- State competitions may include, during Health & Fitness, LED video footage of the delegate representing their health & fitness initiative; and/or a voice over of the same.

Purpose:

This phase of competition is where the delegate showcases her commitment to health and fitness initiatives. At the local/state organization discretion this phase may include a voice-over on her experience with self-care and health goals, and related initiatives, or a health/fitness statement. A delegate's discipline and commitment to being physically healthy is a key to success in all other areas of life, and the rigors of representing the Miss America or Miss America's Teen program as a national titleholder.

Allows Insight Into:

- The delegate's comfort and confidence level on stage.
- The delegate's overall impression of health and fitness commitment.
- On stage presentation and energy, comfort in front of an audience, confidence.
- The ability to gauge the audience's impression of the contestant.
- The delegate's spontaneity, and lack of "robotic" stage presentation;
- Ability to determine if delegate could serve as national health/fitness ambassador.



Performing Arts Talent/HERStory™ - 20%

Wardrobe: Delegate's Choice – Performance Arts Talents or HERStory™ Presentation.

Timing: Up to 90 seconds.

Purpose:

To underscore the Miss America and Miss America's Teen commitment to supporting performance arts education initiatives and women's individual efforts in dance, music, opera/vocal, drama, magic, oratory, and circus arts.

Procedure:

- The organization will present each delegate's talent not to exceed 90 seconds per delegate.

Performance Talent Requirements:

Talent must be approved by National office or previously approved as listed on the most recent "Approved Performance Talent List" OR be in compliance with the guidelines for the HERStory™ stage presentation. HERStory™ guideline sheet to be used.

Allows Insight into the delegate's:

- Preparatory, performance or storytelling skills.
- Overall presentation skills and ability to deliver a captivating presentation.
- Interpretive ability and entertainment value relative to the category of performance art.
- Stage presence, on-stage personality, and personal connection to her story.
- Allows a look at the totality of the performance elements of on-stage presentation.
- Ability to capture the attention of an audience while performing on stage.



Evening Gown-20%

Wardrobe: Delegate's Choice of Evening Wear.

Timing: State/Local choice of timing to music.

Choreography: State/Local choice of blocking, choreography and timing.

Purpose:

Delegate will publicly present her sense of Style wearing an evening gown in a fashion suitable for an appearance as Teen/Miss Local or State. Part of a titleholder's role is to attend galas, fundraisers, awards shows and other formal events. This often involves walking a red carpet, posing for press photographers, modeling in fashion shows, promoting various national fashion designers who partner with Miss America or Miss America's Teen programs.

Local/State programs are to create an elegant runway/stage experience set to music appropriate for this phase of competition.

If voice over tracks are being utilized for each delegate during their elegant walk, state/local officials should focus on reflection topics: *What women is most inspiring to them? What qualities of a empowered women do they relate most to? Share their most inspirational quote and why does it connect with them?*

Questions regarding why the delegate picked their gown, or any style questions/references are prohibited from use in any voice over.

Allows Insight into the delegate's:

- Ability to capture attention on stage, and individual stage presence.
- Comfort, confidence, and composure.
- Overall impression of ability to represent the Miss America or Miss America's Teen Organization at a high-profile event.
- Scoring is based on how the delegate carries herself/performs in this phase of competition, not on the actual gown she is wearing or the perceived cost of that gown.



Preliminary Night-On Stage Conversation - 10%

Wardrobe: Delegate to be in Opening Number Outfit or Stylish Interview Apparel*.

Preliminary Purpose:

This question to be asked immediately following any opening presentation/choreography. This should be the first phase of any preliminary competition each night.

Questions:

The preliminary conversation question should be a single question asked onstage regarding the Delegate's Community Service Initiative (CSI) and response should not be longer than 30 seconds.

Allows Insight into the delegate's:

- Commitment to the Service point of the crown.
- Unique perspective on community service and its local impact.
- Desire to create interest in her community service initiatives.
- Brings the interview to the stage in an interactive engaging way to showcase each delegate.
- Highlights intelligence, personality, charisma, and aptitude for the titleholder's opportunity.
- Allows a look at the sense of composure in presenting ideas on stage.
- Allows a look at interactivity with the panelists and the audience.

**This alternate wardrobe option shall only be exercised if the opening look is classified as a costume and is deemed inappropriate by the Director for the Preliminary Night On Stage Conversation.*



Single or Final Night On Stage Conversation - 10%

Wardrobe: Either Opening Number Apparel OR Competition Evening Gown

Finals Purpose:

Question at the Call Out of Top Semifinalists, to be Delegate's wearing Opening Number Apparel.

Question at Competition Evening Gown - Gown should be the last competition in the lineup. The Top 10 or Top 15 (Or however your Semi-Finalist Call Out may be configured) Final Conversation/OSQ for each Delegate would be asked individually after Delegate's completion of a full evening gown moment on stage.

Questions:

The actual question should touch on the five pillars of the brand (style, service, scholarship, success, sisterhood) however, host may include a "warm up" conversation at Director's discretion. The delegate will have between 20 to 30 seconds to answer the question. They may not be political or divisive questions.

- Allows a final, high-energy conversation with panelists to determine best delegate for the role.
- Brings the interview to the stage in an interactive engaging way to showcase each delegate.
- Highlights intelligence, personality, charisma, and aptitude for the titleholder's opportunity.
- Allows a look at the sense of composure in the final moments of decision.
- Allows a look at interactivity with the panelists and the audience.
- Allows top delegates to demonstrate depth of understanding about the 5 pillars of the Miss America Opportunity, and how serving as Teen/Miss Local/State will set the stage for becoming a spokesperson for those pillars throughout the state/country.



Final Ballot (Ranking)

STATE OPTION: On Final Ballot a OSQ MAY be fielded during this Top 5 'final look' at the delegate, but not scored. The response to the question may be used by the judge in determining their individual ballot. These questions, if deployed, should be on 'Titleholder Role' and would provide insight and a final look at the delegate's interest and abilities to perform the role of the titleholder and may be drawn from a box or a bowl, at random. (Whatever config is deployed, must be uniform across all five delegates.) State ED may also decide to not attach this ballot with any phase or action on stage, but to allow the judges to consider the totality of the delegate throughout the experience.

Wardrobe: Delegate's Choice of Evening Wear

Final Ballot: The final ballot is only applicable on State (Miss/Teen) single and final night competitions (10+ Delegates). It is not used at Local competitions. The final ballot shall not be distributed to the panelists until all of the Top 5 delegates have completed their Final Conversation phase of competition. Panelists are to consider all factors and a delegate's overall performance on the Final Night when ranking these top finalists. This includes:

- The totality of the above qualities and attributes of State Titleholder.
- Her ability to meet the expectations set as the spokesperson for the brand and advocacy efforts on behalf of the State/National Organization.
- Each panelist must place the delegates in the specific order they believe the contestants rank in their capacity for the role of the State Titleholder

The point value of the ranking is as follows:

- 1st Place Rank = 10 points.
- 2nd Place Rank = 5 points.
- 3rd Place Rank = 3 points.
- 4th Place Rank = 2 points.
- 5th Place Rank = 1 point.

The point totals from the Final Ballot alone, determine the outcome. All the panelists' Final Ballot points count - **high and low scores are not dropped in Final Ballot**. The points earned **prior** to the Final Ballot determine the Final Ballot's Top 5. After the determination of the Top 5, all competition points earned prior to the Final Ballot are not considered.



Composite Score - 30%

Composite Score-Multi Night Competitions Only - 30%

Following the Preliminary Night Competition, Panelists gather with State Leadership, Panelist Chair, and Auditors to conduct Composite Scoring. Panelists are to consider all factors and a contestant's overall performance to date and the role of titleholder when assigning this Composite Score:

- The sum of the qualities and attributes of a Titleholder and the role of Titleholder supplied to the panelists by State Leadership.
- Each Delegate's ability to represent the Organization in official sponsors/partnerships appearances, Miss America or Miss America's Teen national brand initiatives, and community service and advocacy opportunities.

DIRECTLY FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF COMPOSITE SCORING

Panelists will have a brief confidential and conversational discussion on the semi-finalists who are advancing to compete on the Final Night. This is also referred to as the "Top 15 or Top 10 Meeting." As with Composite Scoring, this is a confidential process. It is designed for the panelists to learn from each other's expertise, **not from the ED or any other organization official**. No one other than the meeting facilitator and the panelists may speak. The meeting should proceed as follows:

- The Panelist Chair collects all cell phones in the room to prevent recording of any conversation, and once secured, state the name of the first semi-finalist in random order. Judges completes the final ballot on the first semi-finalist and ballots are collected before moving on to the next delegate. The Panelist Chair then states the name of the 2nd semi-finalist in random order and so forth; until all semi-finalists have been presented to the panel, scored and ballots collected individually.
- (State ED discretion) Next, only after the scores have been submitted/collected. The panelists initiate an open discussion **related to each delegate's ability to perform the titleholder role and assume the responsibilities of the titleholder term**. The meeting's sole purpose is to allow panelists to glean insight from their fellow panelists. The State ED has full authority and discretion to limit the discussion as he/she sees fit to keep the conversation insightful.
- There may NOT be any conversation regarding scores or potential placement.
- There may be NO verbal or non-verbal communication from any organization official.

It is a severe violation of MAO rules if anyone, including the panelists, try to predetermine the outcome of the competition or mentions or insinuates how they feel any contestant should finish. There can never be any discussion or decision regarding contestant placement among the panelists.



On Stage Awards and Crowning Competition Awards and Runners Up

Wardrobe: Delegate's Choice of Evening Wear

Note: State and Local Program leaders must use caution in how many runners-up are announced. Rule of Thumb: never leave fewer contestants standing without being announced than the number of contestants who are announced as a runner up. (For example, if you have 6 contestants, do not announce more than 2 runners up and the winner.)

If the organization announces awards on-stage based ***on actual phases of competition***, it **must be limited to no more than three (3) competition awards**, such as Performance/HERStory™ which may be broken out as two separate recognitions, Red Carpet/Evening Gown or Community Service Initiative submissions.

Organizations are not required to announce any category awards.

Preliminary Awards: Typically only two awards are given on a preliminary night, such as Talent, and Eveningwear. Health & Fitness shall **not** be awarded as a preliminary award of any kind, at any point, unless related directly to off-stage participation within a larger national initiative, i.e. Fundraising for The American Heart Association, or other philanthropic partnership with National MA. Such awards would not be designated as direct 'Health & Fitness' delegate awards, rather awards providing recognition on stage as 'Supporting the Health & Fitness Initiative' in partnership with The American Heart Association or other partner to be named.

Additional, non competitive awards, may be announced but under no circumstances should **all** category winners be announced.



Auditor Instructions

TALLY SHEETS: On Auditor's TALLY Sheet, fill in the competition, name and/or title of each contestant and each judge in spaces provided. You will receive a score sheet from each judge after each phase of competition. Each contestant **MUST** receive points in each competition from each judge.

OLYMPIC SCORING: The Panelist Chair gives the Auditor all individual Score Sheets for each competition. After all Judges' Score Sheets are entered on the Tally Sheet, the Auditor to discard highest and lowest scores for each Delegate, adding remaining figures horizontally, and then multiply by the criteria value.

POINTS TOTALS: After competitions conclude, the Auditor adds all points each contestant received in each phase of the competition and marks the total in the column, TOTAL POINTS. If you are not naming Ten (10) Semi-Finalists or if it is a one-night pageant, circle the contestants receiving the five (5) highest points and place them in order of points received to determine the Winner, 1st Runner-Up, 2nd Runner-Up, 3rd Runner-Up and 4th Runner-Up. On the card marked RUNNERS UP AND TITLEHOLDER, list in the proper place, the names of the Runners-Up and the Titleholder. Give this card to the Judges Chair.

FOR MORE THAN ONE-DAY COMPETITIONS THAT NAME A TOP 10 When the Semi-Finalists are announced, a new COMPETITION TALLY Sheet to be prepared listing Top 10 in competition order. Only the composite score carries over from preliminary night scores. The composite scores are transferred to the Top 10 TALLY Sheet under the composite score column. The Score Sheets for Health/Fitness, Performance/HERStory™, and Eveningwear are collected and recorded by the auditors on the TALLY Sheet as on preliminary nights.

TIES ON PRELIMINARY EVENINGS: The decision to award all winners in a tie during Preliminary evenings is made by the Local/State Director. If a tie exists for a prelim award (i.e. Eveningwear, Performance/HERStory™), a NAMED CATEGORY TIE sheet is created for each judge, listing "tied" contestants, to allow each judge to circle preference of category winner. Auditors may NOT consider other categories to break a tie (i.e., evening gown or interview may NOT decide a tie in talent).

TOP 10 TIES: Delegates with highest prelim points in the Composite advance to Top 10. Order of progression to be Interview, Performance/HERStory™, Health & Fitness, Evening Wear phases. Judges DO NOT re-ballot into the Top 10 unless a tie exists in all competitions. A sheet is created for each judge listing contestants with tied scores. Each judge circles his/her choice to break the tie.

TOP 5 TIES: For Top 5 ties or ties within the Top 5, the tie breaking method to be the same as in Top Ten Ties. DO NOT DESTROY SCORE SHEETS OR TALLY SHEETS.

SECURING SCORE SHEETS: At competition conclusion, the Auditor places all score sheets/tally sheets in a sealed, dated, identified envelope for safe keeping at a predetermined location, established by the Local/State Board.



Missing Panelist Protocols

The MISSING Panelist Procedure or “Rules” are in place when one of the panelists are unable to complete their duties throughout the competition phases.

Example #1 - No Change in the number of panelists throughout all competition phases

- In this example, all panelists complete all competition phases.
- Panelists score each phase of competition, Auditor to use Olympic Scoring rules.
- Remaining scores are added together and multiplied by weight of the phase as applicable (a phase worth 20% of the score is multiplied by 2.0; 30% by 3.0).
- The selection process determines a Winner and Runners-up.
- This process may vary determined by if the competition is a Single-Night or Multi-Night Competition.

Example #2 - A Panelist does not complete the first competition phase

- The auditors discards all scores from Missing Panelist who did not complete the first phase.
- High/low scores **ARE NOT** dropped if the panel has less than FIVE members at any time.
- Remaining scores added together and multiplied by the weight of phase as applicable (a phase worth 30% of the score is multiplied by 3.0; 20% 2.0).
- Follow the last two bullets in Example #1 above.

Example #3 - A Panelist completes at least one competition phase, but does not complete any other

- The scores of Missing Panelist are NOT discarded for any COMPLETED competition phase scored, however if Panelist leaves in the middle of a phase, discard all partial scores for that phase.
- All remaining competition phases apply a multiplier to represent the original number of panelists. Three (3) scenarios below show how to properly factor scoring for the original number of panelists.

Scenario #1: Five (5) Original Panelists - The remaining competition phase’s high & low scores are **NOT dropped**. All scores given by the remaining four (4) panelists in each remaining phase are added together and multiplied by 0.75, then multiplied by the weight of phase (a phase worth 30% of the score is multiplied by 3.0). The auditor multiplies the score by 0.75 to equate these four (4) scores to the three (3) panelist scores necessary to duplicate the results of five (5) panelists.

Scenario #2: Six (6) Original Panelists - The remaining competition phase’s high & low scores **ARE dropped**. All scores from the remaining five (5) panelists in each remaining phase are added together, multiplied by 1.33, and multiplied by the weight of phase (i.e. a phase worth 30% by 3.0). When a panelist completes at least one competition phase, each contestant's high & low scores in each competition phase are dropped, leaving three (3) scores for the auditors to add. After these three (3) scores are added together, the auditors then multiply that total by 1.33 to equate those three (3) scores to the four (4) scores necessary to duplicate the results of six (6) panelists.



contd., Missing Panelist Protocols

Scenario #3: Seven (7) Original Panelists - The remaining competition phase's high & low scores **ARE dropped**. All scores from the remaining six (6) panelists in each remaining phase are added together and multiplied by 1.25, then multiplied by the weight of competition (a phase worth 30% of the score is multiplied by 3.0; 20% by 2.0). In the original situation, the high & low scores are dropped and the five (5) remaining scores count. When a panelist completes at least one phase of competition, each contestant's high & low scores in each competition phase are dropped, leaving four (4) scores for the auditors to add. After these four (4) scores are added together, the auditors then multiply that total by 1.25 to equate those four (4) scores to the five (5) scores necessary to duplicate the results of seven (7) panelists.