

MISS IOWA / MIAOTeen LOCAL PRELIMINARY

JUDGES ELIGIBILITY RULES (modeled from MAO Judging Rules)

1. The judge's panel should consist of five (5) to seven (7) individuals. At least two (2) judges of the panel must be Miss Iowa "certified" judges. "Certified" is defined as having attended an approved Miss Iowa judges' seminar, with the understanding that certified judges must be re-certified every three (3) years. Judges may receive certification on the day of competition, so long as the certification seminar is approved in advance by the Miss Iowa Organization. In addition, at least one (1) individual on the panel must be a "novice" judge. "Novice" is defined as anyone who has never judged a local or state competition within the Miss America system.
2. Judges may judge up to two (2) state competitions and four (4) local competitions in a given competition year/season. This is not a "Calendar year", (the Miss Iowa competition season is generally July to March). Locals are defined by the number of local titleholders sent to state competitions. A single title competition selects one (1) titleholder, a dual or double competition selects two (2) titleholders, and a triple competition selects three (3) titleholders.
3. Individuals, their company/business, spouse, domestic partner or significant other, who in any way benefits, financially or otherwise, from working with candidates or the organization are barred from judging. This means that a competition coach, competition vocal coach, hairdresser, retailer, make-up artist, fitness trainer, wardrobe specialist, interview consultant, choreographer, or any other profession which works directly with candidates, may not judge. Further, a person who works with any candidate in a relationship area stated above may not judge any other candidates in MAO or MAOTeen, not just the candidates with whom they work.
4. Individuals who are related to candidates through blood relation, by marriage, through business contacts (including with candidates' families), or social contacts (including with candidates' families) may not judge those candidate(s).
5. Miss Iowa Board members and spouses as well as Field Directors cannot judge a Miss Iowa Local Competition.
6. Relatives of state/local board members may not judge the state/local competition for which the relative serves as a board member. Using any person who could compromise or appear to compromise the integrity of the judging process is prohibited. This includes such relations as business associates, social relationships, etc.
7. Parents and immediate family of a candidate may not judge any Local, State, or National Competition in the MAO system.
8. Former candidates and their immediate family members, whether a State Candidate, State Representative, or Miss America, and regardless if they won one of said competitions, cannot judge until a minimum of one (1) year after they have stopped competing, which begins at the conclusion of her "year of service.". They may also never judge any candidate whom they, or their immediate family member, have competed, are friends, or have a relationship. "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. Final decisions on the eligibility of judges lies with the State Board. Additionally, use caution in considering a woman of competition age to judge, even though she may have never competed in the Miss America system. It may prove to be a problem if she elects to compete in the program after she has judged. Judges who may be potential candidates, including MAOTeen titleholders, MAOTeen candidates and their family members, are not allowed to judge in any level of the Miss America program until the criteria set forth above is met.

9. At the Local Competition Level, a judge may be able to judge a candidate whom they previously judged, however, they must do so with absolute objectivity and without bias. It is important that the Local Organization's leadership, to the best of their ability, limit the number of judges who have previously judged any candidates competing in their local competitions.
10. Judges who are related by blood or marriage, romantically involved, business associates, or roommates may not serve on the same judging panel. The perception that two judges may collude on the panel because of their close relationship must be avoided
11. While it is not a violation of the rules to use a person from another competition system, discretion must be used. The MAO and MAOTeen judging process cannot be used in any way to promote another competition system, especially in the judges' bio, program book, PR, social media, stage announcements, etc.
12. Judges may not judge the same competition in two (2) consecutive years.
13. At the local level, two individuals from the same local organization may NOT serve together on the same judging panel.
14. Sponsors, partners and contributors (financial or in-kind), as well as their employees and family members are barred from judging. EXCEPTION: Donors to general scholarship funds are allowed to judge.
15. The Miss judging panel may also judge the Teen competition; however, you must ensure that all judges qualify to judge both sets of candidates.
16. Anyone who engages or has engaged in conduct, in the sole or exclusive judgment of the MAO, which adversely reflects upon or is harmful to MAO's and/or MAOTeen's reputation, including the uttering or publishing of disparaging comments regarding MAO/MAOTeen, its affiliates or participants in Miss America or MAOTeen programs is barred from judging. This exclusion includes said acts, conduct, or disparaging comments against the Miss Iowa Organization or any local licensee of our program.
17. In addition to the MAO Judges Eligibility Rules, please be aware that the state organization makes final determination on additional rules regarding judging for its locals. The local organization must provide the list of its prospective judges to the Miss Iowa Organization at least thirty (30) days prior to competition for review and approval. If you have questions regarding the interpretation of these rules as they apply to your local competition, please contact the Miss Iowa Executive Director for clarification.