

Hello!

Congratulations on choosing to enter the Queen Event! You have taken on a great challenge and it will be an amazing learning experience. It takes a great deal of self confidence and courage to get involved with this competition, so we are fortunate to have you!

I have put together this package to help you as much as possible until we can have a seminar/clinic. The most important thing though, is to have fun and SMILE! Don't take yourself too seriously, mistakes are to be learned from...they are learning opportunities, not failures. If you make a mistake, just collect yourself, and start where you left off. Everything gets easier the more you do it.

Please get your contact information to me as soon as possible, so I can get judges comments to you and information on the seminar. It will be no cost (or very minimal).

Queen Event Format:

- 1) Horsemanship – if present, the Queen Event Rep will demonstrate the pattern. Be in the arena at least 15 minutes prior to posted start time. This will be on the website as well. You will have time to take your horse back to your stall/trailer.
- 2) Assemble at the designated area for Speeches & Modeling. Line up in your draw order, facing the audience, off to the side of the area to be used for modeling.
- 3) Queen Event rep will demonstrate modeling for the judge's benefit. After completing your modeling, stay "on stage", wait a moment then begin your prepared speech. Return to the line.
- 4) Once all contestants have completed their modeling and speech, the Queen Event rep will take "stage" with an envelope of impromptu questions; she will call contestants in turn. You will go up, draw one, read it to yourself and hand it back to the Rep. She will read it aloud for the judges & audience, then you will give your response. Return to line.
- 5) Once all contestants have completed this, all will take the "stage" for a final appearance. Queen Event rep will announce each contestant in turn, and then wait a moment once all girls are on stage before thanking them and announcing that the competition is over.

Once the judges have completed their score cards they are encouraged to provide you with feedback. Stand by until they have a chance to talk to you, this can be very helpful information.

The Queen Event Liaison for the rodeo will tabulate the scores and they will be posted. There are 3 judges, but one is an alternate, that score will be used only to break a tie. Each category is broken down so it will be very easy for you to see where you are stronger and where you need to improve. Comments will be typed and emailed/faxed to you.

The 5 P's: Proper Preparation Prevents Poor Performance

Practice lots, practice everything. Commit your speech to memory, so you won't lose your place on your cue cards. Practice your horsemanship pattern so you & the horse are comfortable and confident with it. Make up a plan for your modeling and practice it. Have someone ask you impromptu questions, get used to thinking on your feet about anything! This will help your interview at Finals as well...it's just a bunch of impromptus you get to sit down for.

If practice is not enough and you want extra help, it's pretty easy to find. Get a coach for your horsemanship, sometimes only a few lessons is enough to make a huge change for you & your horse. If the public speaking is your area of concern, check out Toastmasters. They are an organization that has clubs in most towns in the province they have educational programs available. Online go to www.toastmasters.bc.ca and click Clubs to search for one near you and find out more. If you have confidence in your public speaking, it helps with the prepared speech of course; but also the impromptu and interview, as well as your interactions with others.

The other categories of Personality and Appearance are continuously judged and depend a great deal on the Judge's own impression, likes/dislikes. Personality is a very subjective category. Having a smiling, pleasant, relaxed demeanor says a lot; professional behavior ("ladylike"), good manners and a positive attitude go a long way to creating a great impression.

Appearance some think means having lots of expensive clothes, but that is a misconception. It's not the clothes, but how you wear them and creating a finished, polished image. At the regional rodeo level we want to keep it simple, blue jeans, white shirt. It's all in the details, and I'm going to go into a lot of them – Finals we'll tackle later.

Felt hat is a MUST, but it doesn't have to be black, black is the most common choice because it's easier to keep clean and suits most people, it also makes sense as a long-term item for you to wear for years.

Boots should be clean and polished. Again, black is a great choice because it looks more professional than brown or a colored boot, and it's easier to keep clean than a light color boot. Light colored boots also draw attention contrasted against dark jeans, so if you feet move, people notice – especially when you're riding.

After your horsemanship, make sure you dust off the backs of your legs; you will pick up dirt/hair from your horse. Once you get to where the modeling & speeches are held, dust off your boots...a GREAT tool is a cotton roping glove, or baby wipes. Work together with the other contestants - make sure you are all clean, tidy and polished. Make it really hard for the judges.

Hair pulled back looks much neater & eliminates extra movement when you're riding. Hair down looks nice for modeling/speaking, but it's a hassle for the regional level, so just pull it back. Never have wet hair, but make sure you control any fly-away pieces, especially around your face. Even though it's in a ponytail, make sure it looks neat.

You NEVER want to lose your hat, and you should not be reaching up to hold it on while you ride. Use bobby pins to secure it (pulled back hair makes this work better too) run the bobby pin through your hair and between the sweatband and crown of your hat. Hairspray applied to the inside front of your hat's sweatband can help too. "Stampede Strings" are not appropriate.

Have your jeans & blouse starched and pressed and your hat shaped and clean. Keep your jewelry simple. Button your shirt up to the top button...not so comfy, but looks much neater. Make sure your sleeves don't cover your hands...fixing that is as simple as moving the button over a bit so the cuffs fit more snugly. TUCK IT IN! Or if you know someone who sews have your blouse fitted. To be sure that your bra isn't visible wear a skin tone one OR a skin tone camisole/tank top. Makeup should be simple and appropriate, there's lots of ways to get makeup lessons. Be sure your hands & nails are clean; avoid bright/dark nail polishes. Your overall look should be neat and tidy – "well groomed".

So much of the modeling is in how you carry yourself, and this type of modeling is "Pageant" not "Runway". Stand tall (imagine balancing a book on the top of your head), but walk naturally, smooth steps – not "strutting". Look at the crowd and smile. If the ground is uneven or rocky do pay attention to where you are going but only glance down from time to time. Go slowly, and pause for a second or two in each turn. Practice turning so you don't get your feet mixed up. This type of modeling is an evaluation of your confidence & poise, not your physical appearance.

The next 3 pages are the Judge's Handbook's – what we suggest to make the judging process easier for them, and to provide continuity in the expectations of you!

Horsemanship: /50

The pattern is a combination of 2 patterns and should be judged equally. The second part begins once the contestant receives the flag.

Good basic riding skills must be demonstrated by each contestant, her riding skills and control of her mount should be at least ½ of the score for each portion of the pattern.

- Good body line (ear-shoulder-hip-heel in a straight line), not leaning forward or back
- Seat stays in the saddle – rider is able to catch the rhythm of her horse
- Quiet hands
- Tall, confident upper body posture
- Control of mount at all times
- Pattern is completed correctly
- Speed changes as required are definite
- Horse is on the correct lead
- NO POSTING during trot
- Rider appears relaxed & confident
- Lead changes may be flying or simple – but CORRECT – only 1-2 jog steps in simple change
- Flag should be held straight (perpendicular to the ground), rider should not be “leaning” on the flag
- Contestant and horses should be well turned out – clean horse and tack, split reins preferred but not mandatory
- The saddle horn or cantle should not be held at any time during the pattern including stops (min. 10 point deduction)
- No switching hands on the reins
- Unless using a snaffle, one hand on the reins.
- Free hand & elbows are quiet

Contestants may be mounted on rodeo horses and this should be taken into consideration when evaluating the horse’s performance (quality of lead changes, circling, frame, etc). However the walk and jog should be true - no prancing/sidestepping, etc. The lope and any faster pace must be controlled. The horse should not be fighting the bit, mouth gaped open, or show excessive resistance.

Contestant should enter the arena at a flat footed walk, on a relaxed rein.

Right lead lope departure at “A” should be crisp and with no or only 1 or 2 jog steps.

First figure eight should be at a fast, but controlled pace using the entire arena (about 6-8 feet off the rail). Second figure eight is smaller and slower, there should be a definite speed and size change.

After stopping at “B” the rider should allow her horse to stand for a moment. The lope to “D” should be at a brisk pace, but controlled. The horse should stop on its hindquarters, and then stand for a moment before performing a roll back away from the fence into the brisk lope to the gate. The horse should stand quietly at the gate for the contestant to receive the flag, and to return it. The flag lap and the presentation ride should be controlled; the pace is the contestant’s choice.

The use of a flag boot is optional and your choice. If you choose to use one, you must provide it yourself.

Modeling: /25

Contestants will present themselves with a simple “pageant” modeling pattern. This may or may not be performed with music, however the purpose of this portion of the contest is to have the contestant demonstrate her ability to present her self to a crowd confidently, showing good posture and self carriage.

Impromptu Speech: /25

Contestants will each draw a question at the completion of their modeling. This question may be on a random topic, or based on rule book knowledge.

A random topic question will not have a right or wrong answer, but will provide the opportunity for the contestant to demonstrate her ability to think on her feet, and put her thoughts confidently into a coherent statement. The answer should come in the form of a short speech with a beginning, middle and end.

With rule book questions the correct answer should be given some weight into the scoring process, but the contestants ability to provide the answer should be more strongly considered. For example a correct answer from a poor speaker does not score higher than incorrect answer but a well done speech.

Prepared Speech: /50

Contestants are given a topic and a minimum & maximum time length for their prepared speech. Contestants must stay within the time limit, and will be notified when maximum time is reached.

A contestant should have a well thought out speech, including an introduction, body and conclusion. Voice projection, quality of voice, clarity and use of correct grammar should be noted, as well as contestant’s use of body language, eye contact and overall confidence in the presentation.

Personality: /25

A contestant should project confidence and a poised, happy, approachable demeanor. This portion of the scoring process may be taken from observations of the contestants at ANY TIME during the contest, even when they are not the contestant actively presenting.

Appearance: /25

The dress code is the same for all contestants at a regional rodeo. This should make the scoring process easier. Contestants will be wearing blue Wranglers and a white shirt as dictated from the NHSRA rule book's horsemanship attire dress code.

Jeans should be pressed, clean and NOT faded, as well as fitting properly. Jeans should cover the tops of the boots while riding so they will appear "stacked" when standing.

Shirts should be pressed, clean and well fitted. Back numbers should be secured in a manner that keeps it from flapping while riding.

Hat and boot color is the contestant's choice, but black is recommended. Contestants are urged to avoid the "fat-baby" style of boots (for safety as well as presenting a more "professional" image). Boots should be clean and polished. Hat should be clean and well shaped, straw hats should NOT be used.

Jewelry should be kept to a minimum and be appropriate for horsemanship (earrings that fit close to the ear, not dangly). Contestant should be well groomed; hair neat (long hair should be pulled back into a ponytail to keep it neat and quiet for horsemanship), makeup appropriate, nails and hands clean.

I hope that this information is helpful to you, and makes preparing for the Queen Event easier for you. I am always available to help you. My purpose is not only to put the queen contest together, but to mentor each one of you. Feel free to call me or email me with questions or concerns – this goes for parents too! I'm here to help.

Good luck & keep on SMILIN'!

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