

## Columbia County Fair and Rodeo Court Rules 2019-2020

1. **Residential Requirements.** Columbia County Fair and Rodeo Court members (hereafter referred to as 'Members') must be Columbia County Residents. All non-Columbia County resident contestants must petition the Fair Board for approval prior to the application deadline of (JULY 1) for the following year.
2. **Age Requirements.** Members must be between the ages of 15 and 21 as of January 1.
3. **Physical Qualification.** Members must not be pregnant at the time of tryouts or during the Court year. Members must be otherwise physically capable of carrying out their Rodeo Court duties.
4. **Education.** Rodeo Court Members must either be a high school graduate or if still in middle or high school, be passing with a 75% in all their classes. Proof of passing grades may be required.
5. **Community Representation.** Appointment as a member of the Rodeo Court is an honor that comes with significant expectations. Members will act as the face of the Columbia County Fair and Rodeo, and as such, must present themselves in a professional and courteous manner at all times. Members of the Court must have positive attitudes and show teamwork at all times. Members must also use professional, courteous language. No profanity is permitted at any time. The following are examples of non-professional/discourteous conduct. This is not an exclusive list.
  - Use or possession of illegal drugs, tobacco, alcohol or marijuana.
  - Bullying or harassing behavior in any form, including attacks or abuse, gossip, either written, physical or verbal of other Court Members, their family members, Fair Board Members or court coordinators and Committee.
  - Criminal activity.
  - Public displays of a sexual nature, or public nudity (including, but not limited to social media).

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- Abuse and/or neglect of Member's horse.
6. **Event Rules.** The Rodeo Court Coordinator is in charge of all Rodeo Court Events and will set specific rules of conduct for specific events as necessary. Members are required to follow all rules set by the Coordinator. The following are general rules applicable to all events.
- Friends and family of members are not permitted to interact with Members during set up for, during, or after Events until Members are released by the Coordinator.
  - Parents/guardians are permitted to drop off at designated event sites, and are encouraged to stay and watch the events. However, interaction with Members and the Rodeo Court Coordinator is not permitted while the Court is preparing for an event or during the event. Coordinators will determine when and where parents/guardians will meet Members after an Event. Court members are responsible for assuring that friends and family understand and abide by these rules.
  - Parents/guardians are required to sign Parents' Rules of Conduct/Sportsmanship.
7. **Judging:** Members are selected by a panel of independent judges. Members will be judged on individual contestant performance in several categories which are finalized yearly by Coordinator. These categories include but are not limited to Horsemanship (including in a parade, pattern, rail work, arena runs and flags), personal interview, modeling, speech, impromptu questions, written knowledge test (a broad base knowledge test including rodeo, horsemanship, horse husbandry, Columbia County Facts, Columbia County Fair and Rodeo Facts, and current events), personality, appearance, application packet and overall impression. Contestants must receive at least 75% in each category to be eligible for court.
8. **Court Reign:** The Court will be chosen during the Columbia County Fair and Rodeo for the following year. A reign is for one calendar year (January 1 through December 31). A member, providing she is still eligible and is chosen at tryouts, may serve unlimited terms. A member chosen as queen may only hold the title of queen once.

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9. **Horses:** Members must own their own horse(s) or have a signed, long term lease. Members' horse(s) must be approved by the Coordinator before March 1 of their reign. Substitute horses must have the prior approval of the Coordinator. Members horses are required to have their 5 way and strangles vaccination by March 1 of their reign. Documentation of these vaccinations will be given to the Rodeo Court Committee to keep on file. Member's horse(s) are required to stay up to date on all worming's. Members will be required to have certified Horse Health Certificate and Cogins test done by March 1t of their reign. The Rodeo Court Committee will verify documentation of these tests. Members' horses must be kept clean, trimmed, and shod. The Rodeo Court Committee may require members' horse(s) to wear shoes during the duration of the Members reign. No stallions, late term pregnant mares or mares with foals will be allowed.
10. **Member Travel:** Members are responsible for their own horse(s) and their own transportation. Travel and/or lodging and meal expenses are not provided, nor reimbursed. If the Court chooses to fundraise or receive sponsorships for these expenses, they will be included.
11. **Tack and Clothing:** All items given to court members by the rodeo court committee are property of the Columbia County Rodeo Court until the completion of the members reign (December 31). The Rodeo Court Committee has the authority the remove any and/or all items from members. All court members are expected to keep all tack, clothing or anything used for court purposes in good, presentable, working order. Any lost, stained, or torn clothing or tack must be repaired or replaced at court member's expanse immediately. No torn tack or clothing is acceptable at events. Revolving items (crown, tack, serape, etc.) are owned exclusively by the Columbia Country Rodeo Court and may not be altered in any way without the express permission of the Coordinator. Court members will be required to sign the rotating items contract. Court members are required to carefully maintain revolving items during their reign. Any repair or replacements needed must be at the members expense and done so immediately.
12. **Court Presence:** Members are required to participate as a court (group) at all In-County events unless specified by the Rodeo Court Committee. The court will

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be required to attend the monthly fair board meetings. Out of county events must be attended as a court (group) unless specified by the Rodeo Court Committee. A tentative schedule of events will be discussed, agreed upon and then presented to the Columbia County Fair Board for approval at their January Board Meeting prior to coronation. At which time they become "sanctioned events". The Rodeo Court Committee and Fair Board has the authority to add, change or remove events from the schedule at their discretion. Court members will be notified of any additions to the schedule 30 days prior to the event. Any additional events the court wants to attend that are not sanctioned, or approved by the fair board, must have prior approval from the Coordinator and fair board prior to attending. All court members must be dressed in the appropriate court outfit, cleaned, pressed, hair and makeup done as designated by the Coordinator.

13. **Queen:** Court Queen must assume leadership of her court and therefore communicate effectively with all the princesses prior to every event. Clear communications, outfits, time, locations are expected. That communication can take the form whichever the Coordinator and Queen decide. The court is expected to communicate effectively.
14. **Coaches/Trainers:** Coaches and/or trainers are welcome and encouraged to watch the events. However, they are not allowed to be involved in decision making of any kind, whether related to court events, dress, or otherwise. The Coordinator will have the final authority of the court. Coaches/Trainers are not to "coach from the sidelines". Any Coach/Trainer that becomes disruptive may be asked to leave anytime at the Coordinator discretion. Court members are responsibility for assuring that their Coaches/Trainers understand and abide by these rules.
15. **Financial:** The minimum amount each court member must raise is \$2000.00. Court members are required to have all \$2000.00 turned in to the Court Treasurer by December 1 to remain eligible to be on court, failure to do so will result in immediate dismissal from the court. The funds raised will be deposited into the Columbia County Fair Fund, under the Rodeo Court Fund, for exclusive use by the court. The monies can be raised through donations, sponsorships, or fundraisers. Sponsorships can be acquired from businesses, family, and friends.

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All sponsorships must have a sponsorship agreement filled out completely, signed by the sponsor and given to the Treasurer. All donations must have a donation receipt provided to the donor and a copy given to the Treasurer.

16. **Property Ownership:** Although court members may have input, all final decisions of clothing, tack, and other purchase decisions are the responsibility of the Coordinator. Any dispersal of funds is the responsibility of the Rodeo Court Treasurer. All items are the property of the Columbia County Fair and Rodeo Court until the successful completion of the member's reign (December 31). If a court member does not complete her reign for any reason, all items must be returned to the Coordinator within 30 days of official dismissal.
17. **Attendance:** Attendance at all county events is mandatory. This includes court fundraising activities, daily attendance and participation at the Columbia County Fair & Rodeo, practices, parades and other events or duties as assigned by Coordinator. In-county events have priority over non-county. Market area events will have priority over long distance events. Any absences must have prior pre-approval by the Coordinator and with a valid reason. Valid reasons including, but are not limited to academic school activities (i.e. activities graded by members school, that affect ones academic progress, ex. field trips, detention, graded choir/band concerts), 4H events, Family emergencies, and sickness. Valid reasons do not include extracurricular activities (i.e. sports, clubs, including OSET, marching band, etc.). All requests to miss an event must be submitted to the Rodeo Court Committee 1-month prior to the event. The Committee will deliberate and respond to the request. The Rodeo Court Committees decision is final. If approval is not granted the member will be required to attend the event. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence. The first unexcused absence will result in a verbal warning. The second unexcused absence will be a written reprimand and sent to the Fair Board. The third unexcused absence will result in dismissal from the court. Court members are expected to arrive a minimum of 15 minutes early to each event as designated by the Coordinator. Tardiness may result in member's exclusion from event. Excessive tardiness, (3 or more) may result in dismissal from the court.
18. **Agreement/Signature:-Members must** agree to the rules and sign the Rodeo

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Contestant Contract at the orientation. Contestants and their parents/guardians (if under 18) who make it on the Columbia County Fair and Rodeo Court must agree to sign the rotating item contract.

19. **Final Decisions:** The Columbia County Rodeo Court Coordinator and the Columbia County Fair Board have full authority in making final decisions in regards to the court, events, finances and disciplinary issues.
20. **Failure of a Member to comply with these rules may lead to discipline, but to and including removal from the Court, in the Fair Board's sole discretion.**