



2026-2027  
NLBRA Royalty Pageant

Rules, Guidelines, and Regulations  
And  
Contestant Agreement

We are excited that you are interested in the National Little Britches Rodeo Association (NLBRA) Royalty pageant. This is held annually to select three young ladies (one in each age group Senior, Junior and Little Wrangler) who will represent the National Little Britches Rodeo Association throughout the next season. Once crowned, and contracts signed, their reign will begin August 1<sup>st</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup>.

The NLBRA has a designed Royalty Committee and designed NLBRA staff to assist. Together they are responsible for the ceremonies and activities necessary to select these titleholders. They also offer direction, support and assistance to the selected royalty during their reign.

Contestants shall agree to abide by all the rules and regulations set forth by the NLBRA and the NLBRA Royalty Committee, as well as direction provided by them, the Executive Director, the NLBRA Staff and the NLBRA board. Breaking any eligibility rules and/or regulations will disqualify a contestant from the competition and cause forfeit of any prizes and or titles. Selected NLBRA Royalty are responsible to carry the title proudly, fulfilling duties assigned by the NLBRA and the NLBRA Royalty Committee to the best of her ability. The NLBRA and NLBRA Royalty Committee reserves the right to exercise its governing power where questions may arise throughout the year.

**Eligibility Requirements**

1. Eligibility for the NLBRA Queen, Junior Princess and Little Wrangler Princess contest shall be open to all girls who qualified for the National Finals Rodeo in at least one rodeo event, who entered / enters the finals, competes at the finals and who meet all other qualifications.
2. Eligibility for the Queen contest is restricted to last year Jr. Girls, and Sr. Girls who will be eligible to compete, as a senior, in the following Little Britches competition in the following rodeo season.
3. Eligibility for the Junior Princess contest is restricted to Jr. Girls who will be eligible to compete, as a junior, in the following Little Britches competition in the following rodeo season.
4. Eligibility for the Little Wrangler Princess contest is restricted to Little Wrangler girls who will be eligible to compete, as a Little Wrangler, in Little Britches competition in the following rodeo season.
5. Past and present NLBRA Queens shall not be eligible for the Queens contest. Past and present NLBRA Junior Princesses shall not be eligible for the Junior Princess contest. Past and present NLBRA Little Wrangler Princesses shall not be eligible for the Little Wrangler Princess contest.
6. An NLBRA titleholder who violates any of these rules during her reign may be required to relinquish all rights and privileges of her title at the request of the Committee.
7. During their reign, the NLBRA Royalty title is the only royalty position that they are allowed to hold. Any other title must be relinquished by August 31<sup>st</sup>. Any other titles won during the year of the NLBRA reign must not start until August 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year.

**Rules and Regulations**

- 1) Entries may be submitted April 1<sup>st</sup> through May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- 2) No entries or changes to any entry packet will be accepted after the entry deadline of **May 15, 2026**;
- 3) ALL royalty application information must be received to the NLBRA office by **May 15, 2026**. Entries received after that date will not be accepted.
- 4) All fees, paperwork, photos, biographies, or other information required for entering this contest **MUST** be sent with the original royalty contestant entry packet.

- 5) Any missing information from the packet may lead to the entry being thrown out and deemed ineligible for competition;
- 6) Contestants must be available from June 25, 2026, at 3:00 pm through the completion of the pageant.
- 7) Pageant judges may not be approached by a contestant or related individual during the time of the pageant. If this occurs, it can be viewed as intent to influence or harass. Actions of this type may result in disqualification of the contestant at the discretion of the Committee.
- 8) Contestants must, at all times, conduct themselves in a proper, ladylike manner and portray high moral standards, including social media posts.
- 9) The NLBRA has a zero tolerance for any type of bullying.
- 10) Junior and Little Wrangler contestants must provide their own horses, tack and handlers during the horsemanship portion of the pageant. Senior contestants may be provided with horses but must provide their own saddle; bridle, blanket and leg gear will be provided by the owner of the horse. If horses are provided, the horses will be drawn for the senior contestants. In the event horses are not provided, Senior contestants will be notified as soon as possible.
- 11) Contestants should be at all scheduled events at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. Failure to do so may result in a deduction in the contestant score.
- 12) Contestants must provide their own transportation to and from each scheduled event.
- 13) Contestants must provide their own wardrobe and agree to follow the wardrobe guidelines and dress code. Each contestant should have at least one complete western dress outfit, one complete horsemanship outfit (as outlined under horsemanship). Additional information may be available in the wardrobe guidelines, and it is up to the contestant as to how many outfits she brings.

### **Finals Pageant Descriptions**

- 1) **Orientation** - After all contestants have been checked in, royalty contestants shall participate in the Meet and Greet. In this setting, you will complete an introduction of yourself to include but not limited to name, where you are from, and a fun fact about yourself. Typically, an announcer will ask you about your outfit which should be in support of our sponsorship (called Off the Rack) and the judges will ask you questions off of your biography. Contestants will draw for positions for the competition at this Orientation. Contestants are required to bring a silent auction item valued at \$25 to the orientation, which will be a donation to the scholarship fund. Contestants are also required to bring a small gift also valued at \$25 to the orientation, for another contestant in their division for the gift exchange.
- 2) **Pageant Categories** - The Pageant will have nine (9) categories for judging. These include: Horsemanship, Appearance, Personality, Speech, Interview, Modeling, Impromptu, Silent Judge, and Written Test. The overall winner will be crowned NLBRA Royalty in her age division with the next highest scoring individual receiving First Runner-up. Other awards may also be given, including but not limited to Congeniality and Horsemanship.
  - a) **Horsemanship** - The purpose of the Horsemanship category is to select the young lady who rates the highest in:
    - i) Control of mount, proper arena etiquette, and the way each situation that may occur is handled.
    - ii) Balance, ability and position of hands, feet, and seat when riding at a reasonable rate of speed.
    - iii) Understanding of leads and proper execution of specific patterns.
    - iv) Presentation ride (Queens Run/Wave and carrying of flag for Junior and Senior Division only).
    - v) Projection of contestant personality to the audience from horseback.
    - vi) Required attire for horsemanship is in the wardrobe guideline.
    - vii) Other considerations may include, but are not limited to the following:
      - (1) The understanding and skill of the contestant will be judged, NOT the horse.
      - (2) Contestants should ride with one hand on the reins. Little Wrangler ladies will be provided an exemption, as they are allowed to use 2 hands, if necessary, for safety purposes.
      - (3) There will be two go-rounds of competition, one will include the pattern and the other will be the cattle work. Junior and Little Wrangler contestants can use different horses for each round, but must have them both ready and have a handler waiting. The order will be drawn and announced at the Orientation.
      - (4) Judges may talk to contestants, or ask Horsemanship questions in the arena, on stage during public appearances and/or during interviews.

- (5) Contestants may be judged on any of their presentation runs at the rodeo performances and will be judged on their presentation run during the Horsemanship competition.
- (6) Queen and Junior Princess contestants will be asked to carry a flag. Flag boots should be used but will NOT be provided.
- b) **Appearance** - The purpose of the Appearance category is to select the young lady who is highest in:
- i) Overall Presentation of self.
  - ii) Grooming, which includes: meticulous care in neatness and cleanliness in every detail such as complexion, hands, fingernails, hair, hat, boots, and other wearing apparel. Remember to wear age-appropriate make-up.
  - iii) Posture, which includes: carrying oneself straight and tall with confidence and poise.
  - iv) Poise and ladylike behavior in every situation: This should include handling every type of situation with grace, style, and proper etiquette. Good sportsmanship both in and outside of the arena at all times.
  - v) Western Fashion Sense which includes: western outfits, which are fashionable, tasteful and properly fit for the contestant. Attention will be paid to the use of color and texture to enhance the contestant's personal features. Attention will be paid to suitability of the outfit to the occasion. Additional information is available in the wardrobe guideline. (Clothes need not be eccentric or expensive, but should be neat, clean and appropriate).
  - vi) Proper fit of clothing which includes: figure flattering styles altered for a personal fit, if necessary. Properly cleaned, fitted and shaped hats which flatter the contestant's face, will be considered. Judges will look for versatility and imagination in the contestant's ability to carry out a "total look", rather than an excessive amount of clothing.
  - vii) Knowledge of western clothing which includes: the major western wear manufacturers (such as our sponsors), trends in western wear industry and western wear sponsors of the NLBRA.
- c) **Personality** - The purpose of the Personality category is to select the young lady who is highest in:
- i) Intelligence and good common sense.
  - ii) Conversational ability in varied situations with an emphasis on correct grammar and enunciation.
  - iii) A good sense of humor.
  - iv) Self-confidence, high-moral standards, sincerity, and integrity.
  - v) Genuine interest in people and consideration of others.
  - vi) Self-projection (the ability to project one's personality in any situation), whether from horseback or on stage.
  - vii) Positive outlook on life.
  - viii) Promptness and cooperation.
  - ix) Maturity.
  - x) Ability to describe their current education (grade, school, etc) and goals, as well as career goals.
- d) **Speech** - The purpose of this category is to select the young lady who is highest in:
- i) The ability to communicate with an audience using appropriate and correct language as well as good grammar.
  - ii) Ability to be prepared and deliver speech without the use of props.
  - iii) Self-projection on stage, including delivery, voice, manner and use of microphone.
  - iv) Ability to present an age appropriate speech from memory.
  - v) Speech Topic - Anything about the NLBRA.
  - vi) Other considerations in Speech include:
    - (1) Speeches should be NO MORE than 2 1/2 minutes in length. 5 points from each judge will be deducted for speeches longer than three minutes. Deductions will also be given for speeches less than 2 minutes.
    - (2) Speeches should be memorized. No props or visual aids will be allowed.
- e) **Interview** - The purpose of this category is to assess if a candidate has the skills needed to represent the NLBRA. Items to consider will include but are not limited to: personality, communication, knowledge, motivation, goals, values, etc.
- f) **Modeling** - The purpose of this category is to judge appearance, coordination and ability to present one's self on stage. Routines will be limited to 2 minutes.

- g) **Impromptu** – The purpose of this category is evaluate your ability to think quickly, organize thoughts, and communicate clearly without preparation, revealing your critical thinking, composure, and confidence in high-pressure situations like interviews, meetings, and discussions. They gauge your knowledge depth, adaptability, and ability to connect ideas and provide structure on the fly, proving you can handle the unexpected.
- h) **Silent Judge** – The purpose of this category is to observe and ensure contestants are conducting themselves appropriately:
  - i) conducting oneself like a lady throughout the pageant,
  - ii) Behavior in and out of direct competition,
  - iii) interaction with others,
  - iv) completion of requirements of the pageant including
    - (a) bringing a silent auction item,
    - (b) bringing a gift for their contestant,
  - v) treatment and care of your horse and other livestock,
  - vi) participation in activities,
  - vii) punctuality.
  - viii) Silent Judge may judge the Rodeo Flyby rides if the contest judges are not available.
- i) **Written Test** - The purpose of this category is to select the young lady who rates highest in knowledge:
  - i) Written test worth 100 points of the total score. The questions on the test will be taken from the NLBRA Rule Book, the NLBRA Web Site, current events in the Rodeo industry, as well as horse related materials.
  - ii) The topics can include but are not limited to: Current Board Members, NLBRA Rules, Current Royalty, Finals Personnel, Basic Equine knowledge, General Equine Science, NLBRA Rookies of the year, Hope Counts mission statement, NLBRA history, NLBRA Sponsors and NLBRA social media accounts or any information found in the places listed above.
  - iii) Questions may include: True/False, Multiple Choice, Short Answer, or Fill in the Blank.
  - iv) Arrangements can be made should you need accommodations. For example: a contestant may ask for an independent 3<sup>rd</sup> part to read the questions to the contestant, in the event the contestant can not do so based on age/or reading ability. Notification must be made in advance of the contest, by requesting this on the royalty checklist.

3) **Congeniality** - Contestants may vote on the selection of Miss Congeniality.

- a) This award will not affect points earned in the NLBRA Royalty Contest.

#### 4) **Wardrobe Guidelines**

- a) Casual Appearances, such as the meet and greet orientation will be “off the rack attire”. This includes any clothing made by our sponsors to include: Wrangler, Kimes, Cinch, etc. The only alterations allowed is for sizing/fit.
- b) Speech and Modeling: Formal Outfit is required. This is any western style dress or skirt combination, that does not have to be “high school legal”. This dress does not have to be leather. No pants will be allowed in this category.
- c) Interview: Interview attire will be fashion forward.
- d) Contestant Meeting: Any color of jeans and any long-sleeved collared horsemanship shirt of your choosing.
- e) Horsemanship: Any color of jeans and any long-sleeved collared horsemanship shirt of your choosing.
- f) Grand Entries: Contestants are encouraged to observe the Rodeo performance themes for each evening performance. You must rodeo in NLBRA approved attire.
- g) Coronation: Formal Outfit is required. This is any western style dress or skirt combination. No pants will be allowed for this function.

#### 5) **Royalty Scoring**

- a) Judges - There will be three judges chosen and approved by the NLBRA Executive Board.
  - i) Judges are selected for their experience and qualifications.
  - ii) All judges will be used to judge all categories (except for the silent judge category).

- iii) Judges will be selected by the NLBRA Royalty Committee. Their scores, along with the scores from the silent judge, will establish the overall score.
  - iv) All decisions of the judges are final.
  - b) Silent Judge – One silent judge may be chosen and approved by the NLBRA Executive Board.
    - i) The identity of the silent judge will not be revealed at any time before or during the contest.
    - ii) The silent judge’s score may be included in the overall score.
  - c) The contest winners will be determined by the total of the judge’s scores, the silent judge score, and the test score. The contestant with the highest score in each age division will be crowned the winner. Please note: there will be a judge chaperone to keep the time, secure score sheets into sealed envelopes, and the score sheets will be tallied by a CPA or an independent non-affiliated individual.
- 6) The categories for judging are as follows, allowing for a total of 1350 possible points for Queen and Princess and 1305 possible points for Little Wrangler Princess.
- i) Formal Wear On Stage:
    - (1) Modeling - 25 points per judge for a total of 75 points.
    - (2) Speech - 50 points per judge for a total of 150 points
    - (3) Impromptu Question - 30 points per judge for a total of 90 points.
  - ii) Test / Interview:
    - (1) Written Test – 100 Points
    - (2) Interview - 100 points per judge for a total of 300 points.
  - iii) Personality and Appearance: (throughout total competition: your personality throughout the contest as well as the appearance of all your outfits and attitudes)
    - (1) Personality - 25 points per judge for a total of 75 points.
    - (2) Appearance - 50 points per judge for a total of 150 points.
  - iv) Horsemanship:
    - (1) Pattern - 50 per judge 150 total
    - (2) Cow Work - 40 per judge 120 total
  - v) Presentation ride/ Grand Entry:
    - (1) 15 per judge 45 total
  - vi) Flag Presentation Ride
    - (1) 15 per judge 45 total (Jr/ Sr only)
  - vii) Silent Judge - 50 points total
- 7) **Breaking of Ties** - A tie for any of the NLBRA Royalty Categories will be broken by the horsemanship scores.
- a) If the contestant with the highest score in horsemanship will receive the higher ranking. A tie in horsemanship will be broken by the test score. A tie in both test and horsemanship will be broken by the silent judge score. A tie in Congeniality will also be broken by the silent judge.



**2026-2027**  
**NLBRA ROYALTY PAGEANT**  
**Contestant Agreement**  
*Detach and submit with Entry*

By signing the below, As a Royalty Contestant,

- I am indicating that I have read and understand the National Little Britches Rodeo Association Royalty Pageant Rules, Guidelines, Regulations and Expectations, and agree to follow the said rules;
- I understand that upon winning the title of NLBRA Royalty, I will be expected to perform duties on behalf of the NLBRA which include attending any functions, rodeos, or other activities scheduled by and / or through the NLBRA National Office;
- I understand that upon winning the title of the NLBRA Royalty, I will be expected to sign the 2026-2027 NLBRA Royalty Contract;
- I understand that holding a National Little Britches Royalty title is the only royalty position that I can hold during my reign;
- I hereby release the NLBRA, its members and affiliates from any and all claims, demands, actions, and causes of action of any sort pertaining to any injury to her person, or any damage or loss to her property during or resulting from her participation in this pageant; and,
- I understand that there are certain risks and dangers involved in competing in the NLBRA Royalty Contest and Pageant and hereby assumes all risks of injury sustained to her person, or damage or loss to her property during or resulting from her participation in this pageant.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Royalty Pageant Contestant Name and Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contestant Parent/Guardian Name and Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date