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***PAGEANT RULES***

***The MISS SOUTHEASTERN CIRCUIT PAGEANT (SECP) provides the opportunity for young women to participate in a positive competition which promotes our western heritage, furthers the sport of rodeo, and spreads good will for their communities and the 9 States of Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Arkansas and Tennessee. These experiences enrich their lives and lay a solid foundation for their future*. *The young woman who is selected as Miss Southeastern Circuit is the official representative of the Southeastern ProRodeo Circuit of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association and as such she should constantly be aware of the importance of public relations between the general public and everyone she comes in contact with. The experience she has as she travels across the Southeastern and other parts of the country can be ones which will enrich her life in countless ways and create memories to last a lifetime.***

1. **Who is Miss Southeastern Circuit?**

The title holder symbolizes the young women of the States of Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Arkansas and Tennessee who desire to promote the sport of rodeo, and in so doing, the western way of life. She is the ideal American young woman, and is a person who will represent rodeo as she travels the length and breadth of our two states, as well as other parts of the Southwest as required or desired.

1. **What does it mean to be Miss Southeastern Circuit?**

This young woman desires to act as the official representative of professional rodeo and the Southeastern ProRodeo Circuit in the States of Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Arkansas and Tennessee. She, must portray good sportsmanship, high moral and ethical character, and reflect careful and humane treatment of animals. She should understand the sport of rodeo in its entirety and be able to “sell” rodeo to anyone with whom she comes in contact. She should be able to communicate intelligently and with dignity and sincere interest for our sport, and should realize that the Miss Southeastern Circuit Pageant is not a “beauty” pageant. However, she should act, speak and dress according to the prestige the title deserves, and use proper etiquette at all times. She shall wear appropriate attire at all times when she may be seen by the public, and not be seen wearing “fad” type clothing, exposing skin, etc. She shall conduct herself with the dignity befitting the title she holds and shall never put herself in a position to be considered inappropriate.

1. **How do you become** **Miss Southeastern Circuit?**

One must pay an entry fee and meet the requirements set forth in these Official Rules. (Entry fees will not be refunded unless the competition is cancelled.) Then the contestant must compile the highest combined scores that are awarded in the categories of Horsemanship, Personality, Speech and Appearance. She must submit 3 videos of her (Queen run, Flag run and simple horsemanship pattern) vie email or drop box files.

***Explanation of Reign -*** Miss Southeastern Circuit wins her title at the annual Miss Southeastern Circuit Pageant and performs the duties of said title for one year, giving up her title at the following Miss Southeastern Circuit Pageant. As Miss Southeastern Circuit, she is expected to attend as many PRCA rodeos in the States of Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Arkansas and Tennessee as is monetarily feasible and work at rodeos as the official royalty for the Southeastern ProRodeo Circuit. This work is to include, but not be limited to:

1. Contacting and working with the Southeastern Circuit Board of Directors at all rodeos;
2. Riding in the Grand Entry and carrying flags as requested by the committee;
3. Clearing cattle from the arena during the tie-down roping, steer wrestling or other events as requested;
4. Working with the rodeo committees on whatever promotions they may desire;
5. Assisting the local pageant if requested; and
6. Working with the Stock Contractors at each and every rodeo to help in every way possible.

***Eligibility***

1. The contestants in the Miss Southeastern Circuit Pageant shall:
	1. Have obtained the age of 19 years and shall not have obtained the age of 26 years before December 31st of her competition year. ie. She may compete at 18 if she will be 19 before December 31st of that same year. Thereby, she will be 19 when traveling, and a legal adult.
	2. Have not been previously married, nor currently openly cohabitating with someone of the opposite sex in other than a platonic roommate situation. She shall not marry during her reign as SEC.
	3. Be a resident of the States of Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Arkansas and Tennessee for at least 6 months, with proof, if applicable, such as driver’s license, voter registration, etc.
	4. Have the means to finance the travel in the nine states if there is no financial assistance from the Pageant. Sponsors may be used for said financing and fundraisers may be held.
	5. Not have initiated any pending lawsuit or legal action, nor have any such action brought against her. Must not be charged with and/or determined to have committed any crime of any kind.
	6. Have executed all consents, and/or waivers of liability presented as conditions to competition.
	7. Abide by all rules of the Miss Southeastern Circuit Pageant or forfeit all awards and monies given to her as a part of the winner of the Pageant.
2. **Any contestant who does not meet these qualifications shall be denied the right to compete in the Miss Southeastern Circuit Pageant.**

**Loss of Title and Benefits**

1. Subsequent to the Miss Southeastern Circuit Pageant, any person being awarded the title shall follow all rules set forth here. Also, during the year of her reign, each title holder must abide by the rules and guidelines set forth in the Contract and Agreement and Release accompanying the Official Entry Form. Any open acts of defiance, disrespect for Southeastern Circuit Board members and/or the Pageant Director/Coordinator or Committee, or unwillingness to cooperate with the SECP will not be tolerated and will result in drastic action(s) by the SECP Board. The titleholder should continue to be aware that the SECP is the “vehicle” that provides Miss Southeastern Circuit the privilege and opportunity to represent two tates and the sport of professional rodeo in such a prestigious manner. Upon the occurrence of any of the events listed above, the title, together with any and all benefits (prizes) derived by such person shall be forfeited and awarded to the next qualified runner-up. The first obligation of a SEC titleholder is to the Pageant and the Circuit and this should be considered when scheduling any appearance or event which could be a possible conflict with a Circuit event.
2. The rule of “Once a queen, always a queen” applies and each titleholder should act and dress appropriately, whether appearing officially, or in ordinary activities. Should the titleholder participate in “Instagram, Twitter or Facebook” or other social networking sites, and the content is deemed as inappropriate for a title holder, she shall be warned and if it continues, she may be asked to resign her title. At the very least she will be required to remove her name from the site. These sites will be checked regularly for participation and the appropriateness of that participation, and SEC must allow a “friend” status to members of the SECP Board of Directors. (This is to include photographs showing inappropriate behavior such as drinking, talking too much about her boyfriend or posting too many photos of him, etc.)
3. Should the titleholder be seen dressed in an inappropriate manner, she shall be counseled. If this occurs again, a disciplinary action shall be necessary. Anytime SEC is at an event of any kind, she shall be attired properly. In the arena this is to include hat, crown, wranglers, boots, belt, and buckle. Her shirt shall be tucked in and long sleeved with the sleeves buttoned/snapped. A collared, Wrangler brand shirt is preferable, but not mandatory; however, we do not recommend “slinkies” or horse show type apparel. We also prefer that your Wranglers be other than very low rise. Pants that hit at the hip bone or slightly below are fine. Cute outfits such as a tutu, or “fashion forward” styling is acceptable on many occasions, but SEC should check with the director to ensure appropriateness for the occasion. Whenever representing a rodeo, ie an autograph appearance, SEC shall be dressed in appropriate rodeo attire. Other apparel may be appropriate for pageants and other activities.

**Miss Southeastern Circuit Pageant Judging Guidelines**

1. Miss Southeastern Circuit contestants are judged in three divisions equally: Horsemanship, Personality and Appearance, each containing a total of 100 points from each judge. In addition, the scores from a contestant’s “Media” interview, short introductory speech, photogenic competition, personal interview, extemporaneous questions and fashion show/modeling creativity will be added to those three categories. The score from the Written Test is added into the total overall score at the end to determine the winner of the title. **NOTE: The Horsemanship Interview scores are counted as part of the overall Horsemanship score.**
2. Judges – Recommended three to five officials who will judge all categories of the Pageant. Their scores taken from the individual score sheets and entered into a spreadsheet for every contestant immediately following each division of the competition, or as soon as is feasible. We make every attempt to bring in very qualified judges who do not know the contestants and have the knowledge and integrity befitting this contest. This could include past State titleholders, officials of other queen organizations, and rodeo experts.
3. Judged Events

a. Horsemanship – Our Horsemanship competition is patterned after the Miss Rodeo America contest. SEC contestants will draw for their mounts from a relatively equal pen of horses that have been brought in for the competition. All tack will be furnished and the contestant will not be allowed to warm-up or otherwise ride her draw until she enters the arena to perform. Following the competition in the set pattern, the contestants will compete in the 2 minute “free time” portion of the competition on their second draw horse. The same horse may not be drawn for both sections of competition. Contestants shall be required to carry a flag and do a queen run or “hot lap” during the competition. Contestants shall be prepared to compete in the pattern which accompanies the Official Entry Form. The draw for position and for horses shall be done at orientation. Spurs are allowed if the contestant wishes to use them and the committee approves. No chaps may be worn at any time in the competition or rodeo. **Horsemanship AND Horsemanship Interview Scores are included in the Horsemanship Division. (A video must be submitted to show accurate horsemanship skills)**

b. Media Interview - Each contestant will participate in a mock Media interview, just as if she is appearing on a live radio or television show. (Scores included in the Personality Division)

c. Introductory Speech – Each contestant shall give a one minute introductory speech. This may be creative and fun if desired. (Scores included in the Personality Division)

d. Interviews (Personal and Horsemanship) – Each contestant will be interviewed privately by the judges. Questions asked will query the contestant’s knowledge of the SECP, professional rodeo, animal welfare issues, horsemanship and current affairs. NOTE: The Horsemanship Interview may be held in conjunction to the Horsemanship competition, if necessary. (Scores included in the Personality and Horsemanship Divisions, respectively.)

e. Extemporaneous/Impromptu Questions/Media Interview – Questions will be asked of the contestants during some Pageant function. One question will relate to the sport of rodeo and the other to current events or other topics. During the Fashion Show, a mock media interview will take place which will simulate an actual television or radio interview, as well as a 1 ½ minute extemporaneous speech about one of three subjects they may choose from. There will be no prepared speech. (Scores included in the Personality Division)

f. Modeling/Fashion Show – Contestants will model an outfit of their own chosing for the introductory speech, an outfit from a local western store for the Impromptu and Media Interview, and a formal dress or skirt and blouse of “western elegance” for the formal modeling and extemporaneous speech. No formals are allowed. (Scores included in the Appearance Division)

g. Photogenic – The judges will score the photographs that are turned in with applications (Scores included in the Appearance Division)

h. Written Test - There shall be a written test with the score added to the total for each contestant to determine the winner. The test shall be over the sport of professional rodeo, equine science and the queening world. The score from the test shall be added on to the total score at the final tabulation. An award will be presented to the contestant with the highest score.

1. Category Winners and Ties
	1. The winners in the Horsemanship, Personality and Appearance divisions shall be determined by the total scores in those categories. In the event of a tie, the tie shall be broken by referring back to Judge #1 (head judge to be selected by all the judges.) This judge’s score will break the tie. If the tie remains, Judge #2’s score will be used, and so forth until the tie is broken.
	2. Ties resulting in Photogenic and Public Speaking will be broken by using the same method as above.

* 1. A tie for the Miss Southeastern Circuit Title and runners-up will be broken by the Horsemanship scores. ie. The contestant with the highest score in Horsemanship will receive the highest ranking. Should there be a tie remaining, the scores of Judge 1, or the Head Judge shall be used to break the tie.
	2. A Spirit Award will be given to the contestant who the SECP committee feels has displayed the spirit and sportsmanship that we look for in a queen.
1. Pageant Categories
	1. Appearance – The purpose of this judged division is to select the girl who rates highest in: (to include appearance in all categories/events and photogenic)
		* + Attractiveness - To include the contestant’s style of attire, overall appearance, magnetism and eye appeal
			+ Grooming – To include neatness and cleanliness in every detail such as complexion, hands, nails, hair, hat, boots, and other apparel. Meticulous care in general grooming is essential for a young woman to be Miss Southeastern Circuit.
			+ Poise and Posture – A good posture and the poise to handle any situation.
			+ Knowledge of Proper Western Attire – Contestants should be aware of what is fashionable western attire with particular attention given to color coordination such as knowing the use of various color combinations to enhance appearance and eye appeal. Judges will be observing how a contestant’s clothes fit and suit her personality. However, it is not necessary to invest in an excessive amount of expensive clothing. The crease & shape of a contestant’s hat is also to be considered. Contestants are expected to appear in “full western attire” at all times unless otherwise specified. For example, Wrangler pants and shirt or blouse, vest and/or jacket, western skirt and blouse or shirt, or western dress; all with hat, boots and belt. Shirttails shall always be tucked in. Bare skin showing at the midriff is not acceptable as it does not reflect a wholesome western image and very low rise pants are discouraged. NOTE: Wrangler is a huge sponsor of rodeo and queen pageants. Therefore we request that our contestants and titleholders wear only Wrangler, Riata, Aura or 20X pants…any item from the Wrangler family of products.
			+ Western Image – All dresses, skirts and blouses must reflect a western theme. Evening gowns or cocktail type dresses are not acceptable. The dresses do not have to be made of leather, although this is the norm, but ultra-suade and gaberdeen have been used and are fine.
			+ Outfits selected from the western store are to reflect the contestants personality and flair and may be western in nature or more of a “fashion forward” trend.
			+ Judges will be looking at photographs that will be taken at the beginning of the Pageant and should reflect the contestant’s personality and western flair. They want to see a contestant’s strength of character and personality reflected in a wholesome and professional appearance.
	2. Horsemanship – The purpose of this division is to select the girl who rates highest in: (to include the scores in actual horsemanship competition and the horsemanship interview.)
		* + Horsemanship – To include control of her mount and the way she handles any situation which may occur.
			+ Balance – The ability to sit properly in the saddle.
			+ Position – Positioning of hands, feet and seat.
			+ Mounting and dismounting – “Queen mounts” are acceptable. (There is no such thing as a “queen dismount.”) A good clean mount and dismount are preferable.
			+ The skill of the contestant will be judged, not the horse or the equipment, as the contestants will be riding draw horses with unfamiliar saddles.
			+ Each contestant may be interviewed on each of the following categories:

* + - * + Knowledge of professional rodeo – Its’ history, organization, rodeo terms or vernacular, explanation of standard events, awareness of PRCA and WPRA (barrels only) championship standings, and what is going on in the world of pro-rodeo. An excellent source of information is the ProRodeo Sports News (PSN);
				+ The official PRCA Rulebook and the official ProRodeo Media Guide, all of which are available from the PRCA, 101 ProRodeo Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80919.
			* There will be at least one go-round of horsemanship competition, with a specified pattern, which may be altered at the discretion of the judges due to arena conditions or other factors, as well as a free style “pattern.” Contestants will be required to dismount and remount, carry a flag and/or perform additional maneuvers on horseback which are often expected of Miss Southeastern Circuit. Contestants will do a presentation ride (“hot lap” or “queen run”) following the completion of one of their patterns, as well as at the Southeastern Circuit Finals on two nights. Any changes and/or alterations to the horsemanship will be announced to the contestants before the horsemanship competition begins. The patterns will be set by the reigning title holder.

* + - * Dress for the horsemanship competition shall be a form-fitting Wrangler®, Aura® or 20X® product shirt of any color or print, long-sleeved with a collar, and the shirttail tucked in; a Wrangler pant product such as Aura, 20X or Wranglers in dark blue denim, and western hat, boots and belt. Any color accessories (hat, boots and belt) may be used. NOTE: “Fashion” or “mod” type boots are not acceptable and chaps and/or gloves are not permitted. All riding attire should be neat and fit properly. Showmanship should be considered since a contestant’s personality does project from horseback to the audience and judges. Spurs may be worn unless the contestant is told by the horsemanship committee that a particular horse will not work with spurs. (Note – chaps may not be worn during the Grand Entry at the rodeo unless all contestants wear them and it is approved by the SECP Board.)
	1. Personality – The purpose of this division is to select the young woman who rates highest in: (to include Media and Personality interviews as well as impromptu questions)
		+ - Intelligence – Good common sense.
			- Education – Conversational ability in rodeo and other areas, with special emphasis on grammar and enunciation.
			- Attractiveness – Not necessarily to mean beauty; but rather whether the contestant radiates self-confidence without making an issue out of it.
			- Personality Reflections – She should also show maturity, high moral standards, sincerity and integrity.
			- Genuine interest in other people, in the Pageant and in rodeo with a noticeable consideration for others.
			- Self-projection – The ability to project one’s personality, whether it be from horseback in the arena, on television, or before an audience. Also to be considered are sense of humor, showmanship, ambition, desire and enthusiasm.
			- Positive and optimistic outlook on life in general.
			- Promptness in keeping on the Pageant schedule.
			- Public Appearance – Competition may include at least one public appearance, giving the contestants an opportunity to speak to an audience with facts and interesting information about their hometown.
			- Proper Etiquette – The ability to have a meal with a group of people while ensuring the use of proper table manners and decorum. To also include appropriate etiquette when meeting and greeting the public or any other persons involved with the pageant.
			- The ability and personality to “sell” her basket\* to the audience through her personality and delivery. (If the Auction is held.)
1. Contestant Expenses/Other
	1. Most meals will be provided for the contestants. Hotel rooms will be furnished for all contestants, even those who reside in Las Cruces. Contestants are expected to eat at the breakfast offered at the hotel and wherever is designated for dining. If a Hospitality Tent is not available, the chaperone shall take the contestants to an inexpensive restaurant and purchase their meal. At any time during the Pageant, if the contestant wishes to eat somewhere other than what is offered by the Pageant, they shall pay for the meal out of their own funds.
	2. Parents and relatives of SEC contestants are welcome to attend events at which the contestants will be present except for the private interviews; but, they will be required to purchase tickets to those events, if applicable. (ie. Rodeo performances)
	3. Judging will take precedence over all other activities and will begin at Orientation and continue throughout the Pageant.

* 1. Following Orientation, a representative of the SECP Board will be available to explain the Pageant activities and to answer questions by families and other attendees.
	2. Silent Auction – Each contestant shall bring an item to be auctioned at the Fashion Show. This may be a basket with a number of items or only one special item, but should have a collective value of at least $100. We encourage our contestants to get the item(s) donated so there is no out-of-pocket expense. All monies will go to the SECP and to SEC as is seen fit.

1. Awards and Benefits – Contestants should be aware that SEC titleholders do not receive a salary and their expenses throughout their reign are their responsibility. However, the Miss Southeastern Circuit Pageant is committed to the following:
	1. The Southeastern Circuit will offer financial assistance, upon application and approval and as it is available at the end of SEC’s reign. The Pageant will coordinate the possible securing of sponsorships and support in various areas, if possible. The titleholder may have fundraisers and may obtain sponsors, but this must be done in a tasteful and professional manner so as to insure future ongoing support of the SECP. All monies given to SEC through sponsorship or donation, even though it is her money, must be reported/accounted for to the SECP.
	2. SEC shall be loaned the use of the Miss Southeastern Circuit crown, chaps, vest, and sashes/banners for the period of her reign. All must be returned to the SECP immediately following the last performance of the Southeastern ProRodeo Circuit Finals or when requested by the SEC Committee or the Southeastern Circuit Board of Directors.
	3. SEC shall be awarded a trophy belt buckle and saddle as the winner, and other prizes as applicable and as available.
	4. Awards will be presented to the winners of the Personality, Appearance, and Horsemanship categories, and others as deemed necessary.
	5. 50/50 Tickets – Contestants are asked to sell a minimum of $200 worth of 50/50 tickets. The winner shall be drawn at the final performance of the Southeastern Circuit Finals Rodeo and will receive ½ of the money brought in by the raffle. The contestant who sells the most tickets shall receive the Top Hand Award, but this in no way goes toward deciding the winner of the Miss Southeastern Circuit title. More tickets may be requested when the first 200 are sold.
2. Judges Critique – If conditions allow, either at the end of the contest or following each section of the competition, the judges will meet with the contestants and their parents to discuss things that may need to be improved upon, or where the contestants “short-comings” are. This will be done, of course, with the respect due the judges. Any arguments or conflict will cause the contestant and her family to be asked to leave. This is to be a learning experience, not a negative encounter.
3. Being selected Miss Southeastern Circuit is not only an honor, but a job as well. Therefore, it is important that the title holder understand that she will be expected to attend as many Southeastern Circuit rodeos as is possible. The list given in the contract may be changed from year-to-year, dependent upon many factors. Failure to attend the mandatory rodeos will need to be arranged in advance and explained to the SEC Director. Miss Southeastern Circuit shall report to the SEC Director whenever she has a problem or concern, and when setting her itinerary. This is usually done through email, but can be in person or via telephone.
4. Any professional photographs that are taken of Miss Southeastern Circuit during her reign may not be displayed publicly for any reason until approved by the Director or Board of Directors of the Miss Southeastern Circuit Pageant. This does not include impromptu “snapshots” taken by family or friends.
5. During her year as Miss Southeastern Circuit, the titleholder may not hold or compete for any other title or forfeit the crown of Miss Southeastern Circuit and all prizes awarded for said title, and the runner-up shall assume the title and receive all prizes.
6. Miss Southeastern Circuit shall submit photographs and a short article in a timely manner for the Miss Southeastern Circuit website or other approved/appropriate website following each appearance to keep the public and the Circuit aware of her travels and to promote the Miss Southeastern Circuit Pageant. This should be done within one week of the appearance.

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The Miss Southeastern Circuit Pageant reserves the right to make changes to these rules without prior notice.

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