

# Miss Massachusetts

## **Rules, Regulations, and Overview of Participation in a Miss America Local Scholarship Competition**

### **Titleholder Qualities & Attributes**

- Well-Spoken
- Intelligent
- Talented
- Enthusiastic
- Charismatic
- Approachable
- Innovative
- Competent
- Organized
- Flexible
- A Team Player
- Professional in her appearance
- Engaging with people of all ages
- Positive role model
- Understands, believes in, and executes her Social Impact Initiative
- Builds partnerships
- Uses social media strategically and tactically

### **Eligibility**

Must reside in the State of Massachusetts; *OR* be enrolled in and attending classes on a full-time basis (at least 12 credit hours) at an accredited college or university in; *OR* be employed on a full-time basis (no less than 32 hours) for a continuous sixty days in the state in which the young woman plans to compete.

Never competed in any National Finals of the Miss America Organization.

### **Age Requirements**

**(1)** Must be at least nineteen (19) years of age as of December 31st in the calendar year (2023) of the State Competition (Miss Massachusetts 2023) in which I compete.

**(2)** Must be at least a high school graduate or equivalent by December 31st in the calendar year (2023) of the State Competition (Miss Massachusetts 2023) in which I compete; and

**(3)** Must not be older than twenty-six (26) years of age as of the last day in the calendar year (December 31, 2023) of the State Competition (Miss Massachusetts 2023) in which I compete.

*For the avoidance of doubt, you cannot turn twenty-seven (27) years of age at any time during the calendar year (through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023) in which I will compete at state or national.*

*For the avoidance of doubt, if you are eighteen (18) years of age on December 31<sup>st</sup> in the year she could compete at the State Competition, then she must compete in the MAO Teen program. For MAOTeen information, please contact Donna Klamkin at [donnaklamkin@gmail.com](mailto:donnaklamkin@gmail.com).*

### **Citizenship**

Must be a citizen of the United States of America at the time she enters her first Competition.

### **Education**

Must be a high school graduate or have successfully completed the G.E.D. testing program for high school equivalency or have successfully completed the academic requirements for entry into a four-year college/university degree program by July 31st in the year of the State Competition.

### **Additional Requirements**

- Competitor is female.
- Must be in good health and can participate fully and without limitation in any Program activities.
- Must have never been married, had a marriage annulled, or will get married during her Year of Service. You can become engaged, however.
- Must not now be pregnant, is not a parent or adoptive parent, nor become a parent/adoptive parent during her Year of Service.
- Must never have been convicted of any criminal offense.
- Must not have criminal charges presently pending, and/or not been charged with multiple minor or petty offenses in the last 24 months.

- Has not been involved in any act or behavior that could be perceived contrary to the mission, vision, goals, objectives, or policies of the Miss America Program. This includes activity on social media.
- Must not use or consume any illegal controlled dangerous substances or abuse the use of alcohol or other dangerous substances.
- See the Local/State Competitor Contract for additional requirements.

### **Miss America Organization Registration Program**

The Miss America Organization has developed their own fundraising registration program that is in keeping with their central mission, providing scholarships. As the largest provider of scholarships for women, the Miss America Organization will now dedicate to fundraise entirely for our own program's scholarship awards.

Competitors must go to [www.missamerica.org](http://www.missamerica.org) and click on "Miss America Candidates" at the top of the home page. On the drop down menu, click "Become A Candidate". Then, complete the "Miss America Registration Program" form. Registration costs \$35.00, a one-time fee for that Local Competition season.

Once registered, the Miss Massachusetts Executive Director will send you a confirmation email that includes the link for where to complete the "Local Competition Registration" page where you will then input which Local Competition(s) you wish to participate in. Competitors are required to pay \$75.00 for each competition they choose to participate in and it must be paid using the "Local Competition Registration" page on the Miss America website. There is no cap.

For future consideration, if awarded a Local Title, there is a State Registration fee of \$325.00. If awarded a State Title, there is NO other registration fees to compete at the National level, the Miss America Competition.

It's extremely important that this requirement does not go overlooked. If the \$75.00 is deposited by the day of the competition the Competitor wishes to compete in, they will not be eligible to compete. Your progress is closely monitored.

### **Fundraising**

Since Miss America and the competitors who compete in our iconic program have a rich history of supporting their communities and their Social Impact Initiatives, all candidates participating in the Miss America program are encouraged to fundraise for Miss America cash scholarships. Scholarship

Fundraising is an important part of our program and a great way to give back, help yourself and others earn scholarship awards, and gain recognition and other opportunities. It only takes a couple minutes to create your fundraising profile using this unique profile link, [www.spot.fund/missamerica2022](http://www.spot.fund/missamerica2022). This Miss America fundraising platform is easy to use and easy to share to start raising scholarship funds for the Miss America program. Important note, the fundraising is tax deductible and the Miss America Organization only recognizes fundraising through this dedicated site!

### **Competitions and Scoring for Local Competitions**

Competitions scored on a scale of 1 through 10 using whole numbers only.

35%	Talent
35%	Private Interview
15%	Red Carpet
15%	On-Stage Interview/Social Impact Pitch

#### **The Private Interview – 35%**

- ❖ A podium will be used.
- ❖ Interview begins immediately
- ❖ Interview continues until the 9:30 timing mark.
- ❖ 30 seconds to close this phase of competition.
- ❖ If discussion ends before the 30 seconds are up, then the interview ends.

The private interview provides an opportunity to learn as much as possible about the Competitor's qualities and attributes to fulfill the Titleholder position; her insight on how to advance her Social Impact Initiative for a full Year of Service; allows her to express her beliefs and have a true knowledge of the world around her; and to get a sense of accomplishments above and beyond her Resume.

#### **Talent Competition – 35%**

The time limit for talent presentation is 90 seconds.

Nothing longer will be accepted, and this will be strictly enforced! Competitors should plan a performance that will not exceed this limit. Judges will be informed immediately if it runs over her allotted time. Each judge will then use this information to assist in determining his/her score of the Competitor's talent competition.

The Talent phase allows an insight to the Competitor's performance skills; a look at technical ability and stage presence; and most importantly how enjoyable, relatable, and entertaining the performance is.

## **Guidelines:**

### **Accompanying Oneself with a Pre-recorded CD**

A Competitor may pre-record herself as a back-up vocalist or instrumental accompanist and use that CD to accompany her live talent performance. However, it cannot be announced to the judges that the accompaniment CD contains any performance by the Competitor. She will be judged solely on what she is doing live, and no exceptions will be made.

A talent cannot be performed electronically (i.e. video tape) or with live accompaniment.

### **CD Enhancements**

Regardless of the talent performed, the background CD cannot have voices, instruments, or other noises that mimic the talent of the contestant. (Example: A vocalist may have background vocals with "oohs and aahs" or other background lyrics, but cannot have a CD with a voice singing the melody line for the Competitor to sing along with. The same would be said for instrumentalists, dancers, and any other talent which could provide for an unfair advantage if a judge could not delineate from the talent on the track versus the live performance of the Competitor.)

### **Double Talents**

If a Competitor wishes to perform a double talent, i.e. singing and dancing, or singing and piano playing, she must do both live on stage. She will only be judged for what is done live. For example, if a Competitor danced to a pre-recorded tape of herself singing, she would only be judged on her dancing. If she sang on stage and performed a dance segment with it, she would be judged on both singing and dancing.

### **Talents Involving Original Work or Material**

Any Competitor who plans to present a talent act that involves prior original work on her part; i.e. own painting, dressmaking, music arrangement, song writing, dramatic reading, etc., must have notarized authentication that she created that work if she wishes to receive credit for the same. The Local Organization will require this authentication. This responsibility will rest with the Competitor and her Local Director.

### **Additional Talent Guidelines**

- At the Local level, there can be no duplication of a talent act among the Competitors. This is determined on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- Also at the Local level, a Competitor may not include in a vocal medley the same song another Competitor is planning to sing as a solo or as part of a different medley. The same song, though,

maybe played on a musical instrument by a second Competitor or used as accompaniment for a dance.

- Talents involving published literary material. Any Competitors performing a talent presentation involving the reading of a literary work (i.e. dramatic reading) must contact the author and/or publisher for “Permission Letters”. These letters should indicate that we have the owner’s permission to use his/her material, both in a live production and in a live telecast, as her talents may be aired on TV.

### **Props**

Any article brought on stage must actually be NEEDED. Non-functional props tend to distract from the performance.

### **Use and Restriction of Props**

No props will be permitted unless they are absolutely functional!

- No mood setters or background enhancers
- No props that imitate those used in a Broadway or screen version of your music
- No props that require excessively large stage areas and complicated setting up
- No use of motion pictures, slides or projection of any kind
- No live animals
- No props involving safety hazards, such as fire batons, sword and/or knife twirling, bow and arrow skills
- No lighting enhancements

### **Red Carpet – 15%**

This phase is designed for the judge to assess the Competitor's personal style, beauty, poise, grace, and commanding stage presence. The Competitor's total look is considered. Her evening wear (not the value of the evening wear) should complement the Competitor's individuality. • Must be in good health and can participate fully and without limitation in any Program activities.

### **Onstage Interview/Social Impact Pitch – 15%**

Serving as a continuation of the Competitor’s private interview by bringing it on stage in an interactive energetic way to showcase each Competitor’s intelligence, personality, charisma, communication skills, and aptitude for the Titleholder’s job. It will allow the audience to get to know the Competitor through this discussion and to see if she can serve as a role model of her

generation. The Onstage Interview questions will come directly from the Judge's panel during this phase.

Also during this phase, the competitor will deliver a 25 second Social Impact Pitch, which at her discretion can include a statement on the initiative's importance, her work and plans with the initiative, or other information.

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The young women who compete in the Miss Massachusetts program are intelligent, articulate, highly motivated, caring, talented, ambitious, and hard working. They are passionate about executing on their Social Impact Initiatives (Platform Statements) and are major contributors to public service. They exemplify leadership skills, strength of character and spirit.

The woman who holds the job of Miss "Local" or Miss "State" must be willing to put others before herself, see herself as someone who does for others, works in a collaborative team mindset, and sees the "job" as a launchpad for her future education and career.