

2018 Fond du Lac County Fair Junior Amateur Talent Competition Contestant Rules

1. Show is open to legal residents of Wisconsin. Judge's decisions are final.
2. Youth: 2 through 12 years
Teen: 13 through 18 years
A 12-year-old (or 18 year old) could turn 13 (or 19) by State Fair and still be eligible in the Youth (or Teen) division, as they met age requirements at the time of qualification.
3. Youth acts will be permitted to have one performer who is 13 years old only. If a performer in a Youth act turns 13 before the State Fair, thus making the Youth act have two or more 13-year-olds, that act will automatically become a Teen act. Any performer who is 14 years or older will not be allowed to perform in a Youth act.
4. Acts are required to keep the performance at three minutes or less. Acts running longer than three minutes are subject to possible disqualification or point deduction. This will be at the judge's discretion. Set-up time is not included in the three minute limit. Please limit set-up time to one minute.
5. No more than five persons are allowed in an act. Accompanists are not considered part of the act and can be of any age. Please limit the number of accompanists to three. Drums, amps, etc. are discouraged due to the one-minute set-up time. No combos, rock bands or similar musical groups permitted.
6. Acts are asked to not dance onto or off the stage before introductions. After introductions, contestants may take any position they wish to begin their performance.
7. **Vocalists are strongly encouraged to practice and perform with the assistance of a vocal coach and/or a live accompanist. We understand that live accompanists are expensive and sometimes very difficult to obtain for some performers. We do allow recorded accompaniment. The judges' preference is a single instrument. Multiple tracks, although permitted, are not suggested. This is not a karaoke contest. Any prerecorded track with backing vocals is not allowed, and the act will be disqualified.**
8. Contestants may only appear once in any given show. This applies to qualifying shows as well as the competition at the Wisconsin State Fair. They may not perform "solo" and then return in the same show in a duet or trio. Contestants are allowed to perform in different acts in different qualifying shows, but they may only qualify for the State Fair Show with one act.
9. Professionals are NOT permitted to compete. This includes Union musicians and anyone whose principle source of income is from their talent. Compensation for performing at weddings, etc. does not constitute principle source of income.

Competition at the Wisconsin State Fair

- Friday, August 12, 2018
- Noon-6 p.m. at a NEW location: Associated Bank Amphitheater

Birthdays and Semi-Finalists: If a qualifying show takes place after the Wisconsin State Fair, the act may be eligible to compete in the Championship Show the following year. Semi-finalists returning the following year will perform in the division for their current age.

Youth Division Champions: There will be 8 Youth Champions showcased in the Championship Show. All Youth Champions in the Youth division must sit out one year of competition before they re-enter. They also must re-qualify when returning after the one-year absence, and be 12 years old or less.

Teen Division Championship: There will be 8 finalists in competition. All finalists in the Teen division must sit out one year before they may re-enter the competition. They also must re-qualify when returning after the one-year absence and be 18-years-old or younger. The "Grand Champion" of the Teen division is no longer allowed to compete at the State Fair Junior Amateur Talent Competition.

The only exception to the one-year absence will be for Youth division champions who were 12 years old when they won. They do not have to sit out a year and are automatically qualified for the next State Fair. They will, however, be competing in the Teen division. It is highly recommended that they compete at the local level as a Teen to get a feel for the older division.

All divisions must qualify within the age requirement. For example, if you are 18 and don't qualify before you are 19 you are ineligible, or if you are a Teen and don't qualify before you are 12 you will compete in the Teen division.

10. Acts will need name, complete address, birth date, age, phone number (include area code), and type of talent. Acts with multiple contestants need one member to act as a contact person, and all information will go through them. Additional members of the act need only birth date, age and town.