

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR TALENT QUEST ORGANISERS

One of the main aims in collating this set of guidelines is to help artists to improve their performances.

Recommendations are as follows:

1. Winners of male and female vocal open sections should be given a 30 minute paid spot at the following year's Festival – thus making them ineligible to compete in that festival the following year.
2. If, in the opinion of the festival committee, the completion in any section was not of sufficiently high standard, the committee reserve the right not to award a first prize. Prizes for first and second place should then be pooled and divided equally.
3. Prizes should include "in kind" items that will help with career development (i.e.. music or voice training) as well as any cash component.
4. It is recommended that clubs organizing festivals offer their talent quest winners a spot or spots at one or more of their normal club meetings/shows.
5. A closing date for entries should be set and adhered to. Organisers may take extenuating circumstances into consideration for accepting late entries.
6. The area of professionalism is extremely difficult to define, however, we recommend that performers who earn more than half of their income per annum from performing be classed as professionals.
7. The South Australian Council for Country Music believes that only through the promotion and encouragement of our youth, will the Country Music Industry continue to grow.

It is therefore recommended that a prestigious award should be established to recognize excellence and encourage the most promising contestant up to the age of 25 years. To establish this "Most Promising" award, all entry forms (including songwriting) will need a section titled "date of birth if under 25 years". Each adjudicator will need to be given a separate sheet to nominate, in their opinion, the most promising under 25 years old for the day. It is then the responsibility of the talent quest committee to select the recipient of this award, taking into consideration the recommendations of the adjudicators.

8. It is recommended that the information packages sent by talent quest organizers to Clubs and individual entrants must include copies of adjudication guidelines and adjudication sheets with the entry requirements, so that contestants can see exactly how they will be assessed.
9. All guidelines and adjudication sheets to include the words "as approved by the South Australian Council for Country music" and the logo at the bottom of all sheets.



Approved by SACCM 25/2/09.