

TALENT QUEST – ADJUDICATION GUIDELINES

1. Firstly, it is recommended that the word judge be changed to adjudicator, the term that is used in most other forms of musical competition. The people chosen to assess the talents of the contestants are not sitting in judgment – they are giving their opinion.
2. Adjudicators should be seated separately when assessing contestants and may remain anonymous.
3. Adjudicators should have reserved seating in the audience and should not be approached by anyone during sessions.
4. It is vitally important that all contestants are assessed solely on their performance on the day. For this reason, compere's should not give any biography or list past performances of any contestant when introducing them. The name of the contestant, where they are from and the song they are performing are all the details that are required.
5. Adjudicators will each need to be given a separate sheet on which each adjudicator will record his/her individual nomination for the day for the “Most Promising” award. This should be sealed in an envelope and given to the talent quest organizing committee when each adjudicator has finished his/her assessments for the day. Talent quest organizers will need to insert contestant's age if under 25 years in the appropriate section of the adjudication sheet (general & songwriting) so that adjudicators know who is eligible for the “Most Promising” Award.
6. Adjudicators should at least receive remuneration to cover travel and accommodation costs where necessary.
7. All adjudicators should receive a contract, the same as performers do and should be sent adjudication guidelines and a sample of adjudication sheets with that contract prior to the event.
8. Where possible, consideration should be given to selecting adjudicators from outside the organization running the talent quest, and preferably should not be performers at that festival.
9. Clothing standards in the country music industry are changing and for this reason, consideration should be given to more modern styles of dress.
10. Completed adjudication sheets should be available for contestants on request.



Approved by SACCM 25/2/09