

## **CLOWN ACT (MALE/FEMALE)**

PLEASE REFER TO PLATFORM GENERAL GUIDELINES BEFORE PREPARING FOR CLOWN ACT.

In Clown Act, male and female contestants will be judged together.

Clown Act is an individual performance event to be performed by ONE person, not a couple or group.

THIS CATEGORY IS NOT INTENDED TO BE "WHITE FACE," BUT RATHER THE TRADITIONAL "CIRCUS CLOWN" APPEARANCE.

1. Costumes - A costume is required and may be commercially made or homemade. It must be loose-fitting and meet Convention modesty standards. Males must wear male garments. Females must wear female garments.

2. Makeup - Facial makeup must be pleasant - no satanic/demonic/horror/white face images permitted. Special attention should be given to eyes, eyebrows, nose, cheeks, and mouth.

3. Presentation - A typed (double-spaced) description of the skit/act must be provided for judges. It must be positive, teach a Biblical principle/moral, and be void of sexual implications or ethnic ridicule. Focus should be on concepts such as strengthening traditional family values, love of God, exercise of faith, wisdom, defense of freedom, getting along with others, service, and/or commitment to virtuous living. The script must address a children's audience. The script may be the original work of the contestant or may be the work of another person. Note: Clown Act is not stand-up comedy. It is an act with a lesson. It may be mute or vocal. Electronic sound effects are permitted. The contestant must provide all necessary equipment. No off-stage assistance is permitted.

4. Props - At least four hand-held props are required (e.g., balls, books, balloons, bats, hats, mirrors, puppets, stuffed animals, and mops) and must be included in the act.

5. Time limit for Senior category is four (4) minutes minimum, six (6) minutes maximum. Time limit for Junior category is two (2) minutes minimum, four (4) minutes maximum. For example, if Senior competition piece does not meet the four (4) minute minimum or exceeds the six (6) minute maximum time limit, the contestant will receive a .5-point deduction for any portion of thirty (30) second increments outside the allotted time. That is why a piece timed at 3:42 would receive a half-point deduction from the total score. A piece of 6:42 would receive a deduction of a full point from the total score.

All entries are to be uploaded to the RSC program and/or to internet resources.

### **HINTS FROM THE CLOWN ACT JUDGES**

Judges will be looking for evidence that the contestant has carefully woven the entire presentation into a clear message in which costume, props, gestures, facial expression, characterizations, makeup, and "the lesson" are integral. Transitions, flow, relevance, timing, dexterity, agility, and motions are important components of the presentation. Does the act draw and maintain audience attention? Is the lesson

clear? Does the contestant use props well? Is there "dead" time (awkward periods of inactivity)? The costume and makeup are vital for impression; if these are weak, the entire presentation is weakened. They do not have to be elaborate, but they do need to be appropriately selected and applied to reveal and sustain the character of the clown. Careful attention should be given to hair (wig), hat, bows, shoes, gloves, eye and mouth makeup, and costume adornments (badges, buttons, suspenders, etc.).