



# **Mr. Trans USA 2023**

*Official Application*

*for State Representation and Contestant Handbook*

**November 3-5, 2023**

**Milwaukee, WI**

*The Trans USA Board is currently in negotiations to secure a large-scale venue in greater alignment with the needs of our competition and contestants. Mr. and Miss Trans USA 2023 will be held in mid-late September of 2023, in Milwaukee, WI. The official competition dates will be announced several months prior to the national competition.*

*Announcements regarding the Host Hotel will also be made as registration proceeds.*

# Your Story, Your Vision, Your Legacy

*A Welcome Letter from Mr. Trans USA 2022, Dylan B. Dickherson White*

As cliché as it may seem, I'd like to congratulate you on taking the first step toward joining the Trans USA family. Opening this packet means that you have a story to tell, a vision for your future as a representative of the transgender community, and a legacy you'd like to build using this platform. Whether you are a seasoned pageant competitor or have yet to take the stage, you will find your home here.

While it is true that many of our formers have found success as entertainers in the drag industry, we believe in showcasing the vast array of trans experiences and the myriad ways in which our community provides a positive contribution to society. As such, Mr. and Miss Trans USA was not designed with a focus on drag entertainment alone, and there is no Talent category. I've been an entertainer for so long, and many of the most valuable skills I use in my daily life are a direct result of my experiences in this industry and with drag pageantry. So, when I opened my packet for the first time like you're doing now, I really had to ask myself: What else do I have to offer? What else makes me the right choice? And what message do I want to send?

It was absolutely one of those "light bulb" moments they talk about. And when it hit me, I made a promise to myself and to my community. I refused to present my story in such a way that said that I thought of myself as a victim, of my own life as a series of traumatic events one after another, and of myself as less than those who have not had experiences similar to mine.

My mission, as I stated in my interview, has been to rewrite the narrative that our lives are defined by our trauma, whether collective or individual. Though some details of the plot may be immutable, we get to choose how our stories are told. We are not our pain, and there is no need to lower the bar for us. I spent over 30 years of my life obsessing over these things just like everyone else—so much so that I couldn't see past them, even when standing right in front of the mirror. I wasted so much time being ashamed, afraid, and apologizing for taking up any space at all. And I refused to spend another minute begging to be seen or carrying that kind of weight as a part of who I am.

Even just a few months before deciding to compete for Mr. Trans USA, I wasn't exactly in the best place in my life, but the journey that followed that decision allowed me to rediscover the parts of myself that mattered most to me, and it allowed me to become comfortable enough to share them with the world on a national stage. It is my hope that, even if you had never considered entering a pageant before, you will take this leap. I guarantee that you will not regret what you find on the other side.

Sincerely and with love,

# Dylan B. Dickherson White

## Purpose and Vision

Founded by Gerardo Chavez and Luis Perez, The Mr. and Miss Trans USA National Pageantry System strives to celebrate and promote the development of transgender, non-binary, and gender-nonconforming leaders as visible advocates and role models for the community at large.

The primary function of Mr. Trans USA is to serve as an active representative of the transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming community; maintain visibility as a positive role model for trans youth and the community at large; and engage in opportunities that promote productive discussions at multiple and often intersecting levels. Trans USA is not a drag pageant, and performances are not required. Each representative should aim to embody these roles in the ways most appropriate to their personal and professional life.

## Eligibility

Mr. Trans USA is open to United States citizens assigned female at birth and identifying as transgender/non-binary. Contestants must be 21 years of age to compete.

*Note: The Trans USA Board reserves the right to refuse registration in exceptional circumstances involving severe misconduct, irreconcilable offenses, or patterns of behavior that fail to meet the professional standards specified in the most recent version of the handbook.*

## Registration Fee and Schedule

- Early registration (before January 1, 2023): **\$150**
- Standard registration (before June 1, 2023): **\$200**
- Late registration (before October 1, 2023): **\$250**

## Sashing

Upon payment of the full registration fee, the state sash will be ordered and delivered to the contestant's home address.

**Within 30 days** of registration, contestants must submit a high-resolution photo (no sash) for the official announcement and schedule a 30-minute virtual interview session with the reigning Mr./Miss Trans USA. The video will be streamed across multiple platforms for maximum visibility. Each session will be approximately 15-20 minutes and will include questions related to the contestant's decision to enter, community involvement, and plans as the next national representative. For contestants who wish to do so, a "crowning performance" video may be submitted and incorporated into the session as well.

**Within 60 days of registration.** contestants must submit a 60-to-90 second "public service announcement" style video, which should be filmed while wearing the sash. Contestants are free to discuss any topic of their choosing, whether that be an issue affecting the community or why folks should support the Trans USA system and the trans community.

State representatives may also opt for an in-person ceremony to enhance visibility and impact, although this is **not** required. In this case, the representative should contact the reigning Miss Trans USA to discuss arrangements for appearance and the associated costs. Many national representatives negotiate other opportunities when traveling to reduce the financial burden on promoters and contestants. We are happy to discuss arrangements that can help to create a meaningful experience for our representatives and set them up for success.



# **Mr. Trans USA 2023 National Prize Package and Awards**

The winner of Mr. Trans USA 2023 shall receive, ***at minimum***, the following:

- **\$1,000** upon signing the contract following coronation
- **\$100** upon submission of an official promo photo within 30 days of coronation
- **\$400** at the 6-month mark following coronation, subject to performance in the role
- **\$500** on the final night of the next Mr. Trans USA contest
- Official Mr. Trans USA Sash
- Official Mr. Trans USA Medallion
- Official Mr. Trans USA Crystal Plaque
- Travel and lodging for appearance at Milwaukee Pride (up to **\$500**)
- **\$10** for each contestant at final registration
- Travel and Lodging for next Mr. Trans USA contest

**TOTAL VALUE: \$3,500 +**

*Additional monetary and physical prizes may be added to this list and will be announced prior to final registration.*

**First Alternate:** Award Plaque

**Second Alternate:** Award Plaque

**Third Alternate:** Award Plaque

**Fourth Alternate:** Award Plaque

*Additional monetary and physical prizes may be added to this list and will be announced prior to final registration.*

**Most Photogenic, Most Debonair, Mr. Congeniality, Most Visible, and Outstanding Advocate** winners will each receive an Award Plaque, as will the winner of each competition category.

**Most Photogenic** will be awarded to the contestant in each division whose official registration photo has received the most social media traffic (based on analytics, not simply likes or shares).

**Most Debonair**, to be voted upon by the judges, will replace Most Handsome as an award. This award is not merely about surface beauty but is intended to go to the contestant displaying the most class and elegance on stage overall.

**Mr. Congeniality**, to be voted upon by the contestants within the Mr. division, will be awarded to the contestant who most sincerely embodies a spirit of selflessness, compassion, and positivity when interacting with other contestants. The award is intended to highlight the individual who has made the greatest impact in building a family among the Mr. Trans USA Class of 2023.

# **Special Awards**

*by Mr. Trans USA 2022, Dylan B. Dickherson White*

## **Outstanding Advocate**

To be selected by the reigning Mr. Trans USA, Outstanding Advocate will be awarded to the contestant providing the greatest contribution to a charity of their choosing. Although the amount raised for the contestant's charity leading up to the competition will be a factor, other contributions such as time, labor, etc. will be considered as well. Contestants wishing to be considered for this award should submit an official letter from their selected charity during registration at the national competition, which should detail the contributions provided by the contestant.

### **Purpose**

Contestants choosing to raise funds for pageant expenses are often successful when selecting a charity to highlight during the process. Most often, contestants raising funds in this manner will contribute 50% of the donations to their selected charity and the remaining 50% to pageant expenses.

To participate, contestants may select any 501(c)(3) with an impact in the trans community, including the Mr. and Miss Trans USA system. Although participation is strongly encouraged, **no additional points or favoritism in scoring will be shown to contestants based on the charity they have selected or whether they choose to participate in the running for this award.**

## **Most Visible**

To be selected by the reigning Mr. Trans USA, the Most Visible Award will be presented to the contestant who has exhibited the most active engagement in the community across social media and at in-person events from registration at the state level until the final night of competition. This award serves to highlight the individual who has already been doing the work of Mr. Trans USA in the months prior to the competition, regardless of placement on final night.

## **Contestant Gifts**

All contestants will receive a special gift from the reigning Mr. Trans USA at registration.

# Mr. Trans USA 2022 Categories

## REGISTRATION

Registration is not scored; however, contestants must be present to officially be considered qualified for the contest. Late arrival will result in administrative deductions. Registration attire will be a **white t-shirt, blue jeans, and state sash**. Accessories should be at the discretion of the contestant. A group photo will be taken at the end of registration. Contestants will be provided with an explanation of the itinerary and updated on expectations at this time.

## PERSONAL INTERVIEW

Each contestant will be interviewed individually by the judges. The purpose of the interview is to allow some insight into the character, background, and experience of each contestant. The time limit for the interview category is **10 minutes**. Each contestant should be prepared with a short opening bio. The timer will begin when judges ask contestants to share a little about themselves. The opening statement should not be longer than 2 minutes. Points will not be deducted for longer bio; however, the interview will end at **10 minutes**, regardless of how many questions the judges have had time to ask. Interview attire is up to the contestant and may range from casual daywear to professional corporate attire. Although this is not a fashion category, contestants are expected to present themselves neatly and in properly fitted attire. An alert will be given one (1) minute prior to reaching the time limit, following which the contestant will be given an opportunity to provide a final comment or question.

**Note:** Although many of our titleholders have found success in drag pageantry, contestants should be mindful that Trans USA is not a drag pageant. Therefore, the interview process will encompass other issues affecting the trans community as well.

## SUBCATEGORIES

### ***General Appearance***

**0 to 20 Points**

- Contestants will be judged on whether they are dressed in a manner befitting of a national titleholder, regardless of the level of formality. Garments should be free of wrinkles, tears, and other damage. Grooming should be appropriate for an interview setting. Mr. Trans USA is expected to be an example in the community. Appearance and attire should be clean and put together, appropriate for an official event appearance.

### ***Ability to Communicate***

**0 to 40 Points**

- Contestants will be judged on their ability to answer questions with confidence and poise, the extent to which they are able to convey their personality during the interview, and their ability to speak without excessive errors or filler words (um, uh, etc.).

### ***Answer Content***

**0 to 40 Points**

- Contestants will be judged on the thoughtfulness and substance of their answers. Judges should aim to ask questions that require the contestant to respond to situations and provide insight on how they will approach their reign as Mr. Trans USA. Answers should be specific and goal-oriented, and the contestant should aim to convey that they have already been preparing to represent the title in some way.

## STATE COSTUME

The time limit for this category is 3 minutes. The time will start from the moment the music starts and will end when the microphone is returned to the emcee. Contestants will first model their costume. Contestants are not required to follow a specific formation or hit designated points when modeling. However, this category should be perceived as a “Creative Costume” category and is not intended to be a performance. If the submitted music contains lyrics, contestants should avoid lip syncing when modeling. Contestants may choose their own music to accompany the costume design, or they may choose to use house-provided category music. After modeling, each contestant will be given the microphone, at which point they will state their name, the state they are representing, and give a short description of why they chose their costume. Contestants will be judged on construction/fit, modeling, creativity, and communication of concept.

**Notes:** When choosing their own music, contestants must email the final version of the file to the media manager no later than the end of registration. The correct email address will be provided in the weeks before the pageant. Costumes may have lights or motorized parts, but these must be battery operated. No power or extension cords should be required to power costume components. In addition, use of fire, water, excessive loose glitter, or other materials that may harm those in attendance is prohibited, as is the use of live animals. The costume must be worn so that the contestant can walk on to the stage without assistance. **No on-stage escorts are permitted in this category.**

### SUBCATEGORIES

#### **Creativity**

**20 points**

- Contestants will be judged on their ability to create a look that is unique. When constructing an outfit for this category, contestants are encouraged to put thought into their concepts and go beyond the surface level to truly create something captivating. Other aspects of creativity include the appropriateness of the music selection (if chosen by the contestant) and whether creative elements have been incorporated into the modeling or speaking components of the category (e.g., use of a robotic movement or speaking style when presenting a “cyborg” look).

#### **Quality of construction/fit**

**20 points**

- Contestants will be judged on how well the costume is constructed and the appropriateness of fit on their body. Costumes should be of high quality, meaning that they are free of tears, cosmetic damage, appear sturdy, and showcase craftsmanship/skill in construction. All garments should be tailored to the individual contestant for a perfect fit.

#### **Modeling**

**20 points**

- Contestants will be judged on their ability to model in a professional manner that commands respect and showcases poise, comfort, and confidence. While contestants are not required to hit designated points or follow a set path when modeling, they should display an ability to utilize the space effectively, pose and pause appropriately for their



look, and should command attention at all times.

**Communication**

**10 points**

- Contestants will be judged on their comfort in presenting themselves and their concept on the microphone and on the clarity of their communication.

**Total points**

**70 possible points per judge**

**SWIMSUIT**

House music will be provided for this category. No custom audio will be accepted. It is important to remember that this category is not about a particular body style, shape, or frame. Swimsuits may be lightly embellished if the contestant chooses to do so. Appropriate accessories are permitted during the category, although no shoes or socks of any kind are permitted. Any style of swimsuit is allowed, with one exception: Butt cheeks should be mostly covered. Speedo style is acceptable, as long as it provides coverage. Contestants are permitted to wear swim binders as well. Thong-style suits are **not** permitted and will result in a deduction of **5 points per judge**. Full nipple coverage is required for contestants who have not had top surgery. This may be through the use of Trans Tape, a binder, or a preferred swim top. No points will be deducted based on the type of coverage. **No on-stage escorts are permitted in this category.**

SUBCATEGORIES

**Quality of attire and fit**

**0 to 25 points**

- Contestants will be judged on their ability to showcase a swimsuit that is of high quality, fits them specifically regardless of body shape or size, and appears cohesive when considered with accessories (if any).

**Modeling**

**0 to 25 points**

- Contestants will be judged on their ability to model confidently and comfortably and are encouraged to have fun during this category. While contestants are not required to hit designated points or follow a set path when modeling, they should display an ability to utilize the space effectively, pose and pause appropriately for their look, and be able to command attention without appearing stiff.

**Personality**

**0 to 20 points**

- While this is not a creative category, contestants will be judged on their ability to convey and make a statement about their own personality during the category. This should go beyond modeling “correctly” and ensuring an appropriate fit. A contestant’s look should give us an idea of who they are and what they represent. Contestants are strongly encouraged to avoid being “generic” and to present themselves in a way that is MEMORABLE.

**Total points**

**70 possible points per judge**

**FORMAL WEAR**

House music will be provided for this category. No custom audio will be accepted. Attire may be *lightly* embellished but not to the point of being considered a show or performance piece. This is not a drag competition. Overly embellished costume pieces will result in a **5-point deduction per judge**. The ensemble should be something appropriate to wear to a formal evening event, for example a charity dinner or speaking engagement. Contestants are encouraged to select a fashionable look that complements their body and personal style. The overall look may be classic or current. All apparel and accessories should be in perfect condition. Jackets and vests should be lined appropriately, unless designed otherwise. The judges should not be able to see through any parts of the garment unless that is the intended style. Sleeves should be no shorter than the wrist and no longer than one inch below the wrist unless the design calls for a specific length. Accessories should not be overpowering. Shoes should match or compliment the garment and should not be scuffed or worn at the toe or heel; the exception is if the design of the shoe is meant to be distressed. **No on-stage escorts are permitted in this category.**

### SUBCATEGORIES

#### **Quality of attire/presentation**

**0 to 25 points**

- Contestants will be judged on their ability to showcase a formal look that is professional, elegant, cohesive, and is worthy of a red-carpet or high-level appearance. This is to include any accessories such as earrings, pocket square, tie, cuff links, button covers, shoes, rings, etc.

#### **Fit**

**0 to 25 points**

- Contestants will be judged on the appropriateness of the fit of their attire. All garments should be or appear tailored to the individual contestant for a perfect fit. Contestants should pay attention to sleeve length of the undershirt, the fit of the jacket in all areas (shoulders, sleeves, chest, waist, hips, jacket length), the fit of the pants (length, leg width, sizing, U-measurement) to avoid deductions.

#### **Modeling**

**0 to 25 points**

- Modeling should be at an easy pace and showcase class and elegance. While contestants are not required to hit designated points or follow a set path when modeling, they should display an ability to utilize the space effectively, pose and pause appropriately for their look, and be able to command attention.

#### **Personality**

**0 to 25 points**

- While this is not a creative category, contestants will be judged on their ability to convey and make a statement about their own personality during the category. This should go beyond modeling “correctly” and ensuring an appropriate fit. A contestant’s look should give us an idea of who they are and what they represent. While classic looks are always in fashion, contestants are strongly encouraged to avoid being “generic” and to present a look that is not only well constructed, but also MEMORABLE.

**Total Points**

**100 Points possible per judge**

### **ON-STAGE QUESTION**

This category will be for the top 5 contestants. All questions will be typed, printed, and sealed in envelopes. Contestants will draw questions in numerical order. Once a contestant chooses their question envelope, they will be allowed a moment to read the question to themselves. The emcee will then read the question

out loud twice, following which they will hand the microphone over for the contestant to answer. Contestants will be judged on the content and delivery of answer. Contestants are permitted to think about the question before answering.

**Ability to communicate**

**0 to 20 Points**

- Contestants will be judged on their ability to answer questions with confidence and poise, the extent to which they are able to convey their personality, and their ability to speak without excessive errors or filler words (um, uh, etc.).

**Answer content**

**0 to 20 Points**

- Contestants will be judged on the thoughtfulness and substance of their answers. Answers should be specific to the question asked, and contestants should avoid tangents. Focused answers that showcase awareness of the issue, reflective capacity, and depth are ideal.

**Total points**

**40 points possible per judge**

**SCORING**

Contestants will be scored by a panel of seven judges using an Olympic system, meaning that the highest and lowest scores in the category are dropped for each contestant.

Of the panel of judges, one judge will be designated as the head judge, defined as the most qualified and experienced person to assume the role as supervisor of the panel of judges. While the promoter and Miss Trans USA are ultimately responsible for the conduct of the panel of judges, the head judge shall be well versed on all rules and regulations of the contest to ensure that the behavior of the panel of judges is acceptable.

**Administrative Deductions**

Administrative Point Deductions shall be administered in increments of 5 points per infraction and applied to the contestant's final score.

Regulated infractions include but are not limited to:

- Exceeding the allotted time for a category
- National application and questionnaires that are submitted incomplete.
- Direct violation of any category regulation unless category descriptions define a greater penalty.
- Tardiness to any scheduled events of the contest including, but not limited to, roll call, registration, rehearsals, and other meetings.
- Non-compliance with dressing room policies and helper's protocols.
- Actions by contestants or their entourage that may be disruptive to the efficient flow of the contest.

- Non-compliance with directives given from Contest Officials including Contest Director, back-stage managers, sound-lighting technicians, etc.
- Complaints from host hotel management, including, but not limited to, noise disturbances, damage to property, or disrespect to hotel staff.
- Failure to submit required materials by the designated deadline, unless otherwise approved by the Board.

*\*\*Any conduct deemed as poor sportsmanship toward the contest, or another contestant will disqualify you from the competition. This includes social media shaming, verbal abuse, physical destruction, tampering with costumes or clothing, and found guilty of theft of any property.*

### **Tie Breaker**

In the event of a tie for finalists or winning court, the Interview score will be used to break the tie. In the event the tied contestants have the same score in Interview, the tie will be broken in the following order: On-stage Question, Formal Wear, State Costume, Swimwear.

# Mr. Trans USA 2023 Application for State Representation

Please submit your completed registration form to **transusapageantry@gmail.com**

Registration will not be considered complete until full payment has been received. Payment can be sent via CashApp to **\$GerardoChavezVega**. When sending payment, please include the following note: "Mr./Miss Trans USA Registration for *YourNameHere*". Please also be sure to message the national promoter (Gerardo Chavez) or reigning Mr. Trans USA (Dylan B. Dickherson White, Dylan Joseph on Facebook) to confirm that your registration materials and payment have been received.

**Preferred Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Pronouns:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Legal Name** (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

**Stage Name** (if used): \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please list your top 3 choices for the state you wish to represent.** If your #1 choice is taken, you will be assigned to another one of your choices. If those are taken as well, you will be contacted so that you may choose from a current list of available states.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

## **Biography**

Please provide a short biography in a maximum of 5 bullet points, which will be used to create your contestant profile. A different biography may be submitted at the national registration session for competition purposes.

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**How would you like to complete your sashing ceremony? Check one.** *(Note: All contestants will be required to complete the virtual welcome interview regardless of the sashing protocol selected. Those wishing to conduct an in-person ceremony will be contacted by the reigning Mr. Trans USA to discuss options.)*

Virtual Only \_\_\_\_\_

In-person with Virtual Interview \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you require any special accommodations for the national competition or state ceremony? If so, please elaborate below.** *(E.g., interpreter/translator, physical accommodations related to a disability, etc.)*

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**Do you have any previous experience with pageantry?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

*(Note: No experience is required, and not all representatives are entertainers or seasoned competitors. Mr. and Miss Trans USA strives to create a platform showcasing the glamour and excellence of all trans individuals, whether they have previously been involved in pageantry or not. For those wishing to participate, we will be holding preparation sessions to discuss categories, pageantry in general, and to get to know one another throughout the year. Even if you have never stepped on a stage before, we want to set you up to succeed and to present yourself to the nation with your best foot forward!)*

**Do you wish to participate in the running for the Outstanding Advocate award?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Charity Selected: \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

**Please include any social media handles below, if desired.**

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# **Contact Information**

## **Mr. Trans USA 2022**

Dylan B. Dickherson White

Facebook: Dylan Joseph

Instagram: mrtransusa22

Email: [dylandickherson@gmail.com](mailto:dylandickherson@gmail.com)

Phone: (570)-362-3534

## **Miss Trans USA 2022**

Marisol Trevino

Facebook: Marisol Trevino

## **National Promoter**

Gerardo Chavez

Facebook: Gerardo Chavez

Email: [lalochavezvega81@gmail.com](mailto:lalochavezvega81@gmail.com)

## **Board Members**

Abs Hart

Jevon Martin

Brad Schlaikowski

## **Mr. and Miss Trans USA Website**

<https://www.transusanationalpageantry.com/>

## **Instagram**

mrandsistransusa\_2022

# **Summary of General Duties and Responsibilities**

## **as Mr. Trans USA 2023**

1. Within thirty (30) days of assuming the title of Mr. Trans USA, the reigning must provide a satisfactory publicity photograph for official use, at which time an award of \$100 will be delivered.
2. The Mr. Trans USA titleholder shall never become excessively intoxicated while representing the title. The Board reserves the right to determine what is excessive.
3. The Mr. Trans USA titleholder will be required to provide periodic progress reports to the national office.
4. Mr. Trans USA will assist in the planning of the next contest when asked and needed.
5. The Mr. Trans USA titleholder is expected to motivate contestants and increase the contestant base.
6. The Mr. Trans USA titleholder is expected to show concern for the promoters, contestants, audience members, judges, and other event officials when acting as a representative of the system. This includes but not limited to frequently ask the contestants if their needs are met and, if not, what can be done to address them.
7. Mr. Trans USA should make a concerted effort to meet and greet the owners/management of any venues/events at which they are present in an official capacity.
8. The Mr. Trans USA titleholder should arrive early in order to meet and greet the audience if and when performing. This will validate that the Mr. Trans USA titleholder is accessible.
9. The Mr. Trans USA titleholder is required to be well versed on all rules and regulations of the Mr. Trans USA contest, including but not limited to information noted in the Handbook.
10. Performance music of the Mr. Trans USA titleholder shall be professionally mixed, if needed. The Mr. Trans USA titleholder should not ask a DJ to blend one song into another. The performance music should already be customized to the desire of Mr. Trans USA.
11. Mr. Trans USA should always carry promotional photos to autograph photos as requested. This is an exceptional marketing tool for both the Mr. Trans USA contest and the reigning Mr. Trans USA.
12. The reputation of any Mr. Trans USA, past, present, or future is expected to be nothing less than positive. The positive reputation requirement applies to both the onstage persona and offstage persona. Additionally, after the conclusion of the reign, the Board reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of the titleholder's reputation and likewise make decision of future involvement in the Mr. Trans USA system.
13. Negative reputation will result in sanctions from the National Office and will lead to disciplinary action up to the removal of title and all duties associated there unto.



14. From time to time, issues will be discussed between the Board and the Mr. Trans USA titleholder. All conversations should be kept confidential. The titleholder shall assess whether certain information should be repeated. However, all comments should be made in the best interest of the contest, the National promoter, and the system. After the reign has concluded, the titleholder agrees that information discussed will continue to remain confidential. Issues of confidentiality include, but are not limited to, financial situations, behavioral issues, and various issues concerning all affiliated, past or present, with the system.

### **Conflicts of Interest**

1. The Mr. Trans USA titleholder shall not enter other national competitions of any kind until his reign as Mr. Trans USA has concluded, unless otherwise approved by the Board.
2. Mr. Trans USA is prohibited from publicly stating intention of entering other national competitions until the conclusion of his reign, unless otherwise approved by the Board.

### **Responsibilities at Trans USA Competitions**

1. Mr. Trans USA should ensure that the Score Sheet Instructions are followed completely. There are absolutely no exceptions.
2. Mr. Trans USA shall supervise registration and provide a complete and thorough orientation to the contestants (regardless of how many times a particular contestant has competed in the Mr. Trans USA system). The orientation should include a detail of category descriptions, scoring procedures, critique, helpful hints to the contestants, and other standard Mr. Trans USA contest details.
3. Mr. Trans USA shall also provide a complete and thorough orientation to the panel of judges (regardless of how many times a particular judge has adjudicated within the Mr. Trans USA system). The orientation should include details of the contest schedule, category descriptions, scoring procedures, Judge's etiquette, critiques, and other standard Mr. Trans USA contest details.
4. The Mr. Trans USA titleholder is required to observe the Interview category. Any inappropriate comments or questions by the judges should immediately be rescinded with no penalty to the contestant.
5. The reigning Mr. Trans USA titleholder must ensure that the contestants receive a fair adjudication process. All contest processes and procedures must be monitored by the reigning Mr. Trans USA to ensure that contestants are receiving an equal and unbiased adjudication process.
6. Mr. Trans USA should ensure that the promoter has posted the Master Score Sheet immediately following the contest.

### **Social Media Policy**

1. All involved with Mr. Trans USA are expected to be respectful of the contest system including the National Office. State and national titleholders should avoid public rants, online bullying, and intentionally creating drama.
2. Although personal social media outlets of its constituents are not policed, the Mr. and Miss Trans USA system expects the titleholder to use discretion when posting or commenting.
3. Any actions deemed inappropriate and not in the standards of the Mr. Trans USA brand will receive discipline actions up to disassociation with the Mr. Trans USA system. Any monies paid to the National Office will be deemed non-refundable under this action and any awards or positions given will be revoked. Anyone dissociated with the Mr. Trans USA system will be banned and refused any participation with any of its affiliates.
4. No actions, comments, or posts that are deemed prejudiced, racist, etc. will be tolerated.

### **Professionalism**

The appearance of the Mr. Trans USA titleholder shall be professional at all times, with the level of formality befitting of the circumstance/event.

The medallion should be held in the highest regard at all times. While traveling, Mr. Trans USA should use a protective carrying case to ensure that the medallion is not damaged. The medallion should be kept clean and in good condition throughout the reign. If it is damaged or lost, it must be reported to the board immediately. The medallion and/or sash should be worn during the majority of public appearances including but not limited to a ballad performance, mingling in the crowd, arrival into the facility, etc.

### **Travel Accommodations**

Mr. Trans USA is responsible for arranging travel accommodations with promoters and others desiring his appearance.

### **Appearance Fees**

Suggested appearance compensation for The Mr. Trans USA titleholder is \$250 for single-day events. A minimum of \$150 per night is suggested for multi-day events.

Travel accommodations, including actual travel cost (i.e., transportation expenses and luggage transfer) and hotel, shall be paid by the promoter of the event, unless otherwise agreed to by the Mr. Trans USA titleholder.

The appearance and fees of Mr. Trans USA in any official capacity should always be discussed with the Board of Directors to ensure that it is in their best interest and does not conflict with any legalities with the business.

### **Revocation of Title and Disciplinary Action**

There will be several opportunities to correct any offense that would deem it necessary to revoke the title of Mr. Trans USA. First, a verbal warning will be issued by the Board. The Second warning will be an official typed complaint to the titleholder from the Board. The third warning will be an official meeting between the Board, CEO, and the Mr. Trans USA titleholder. Both sides will have an opportunity to plead their case. Upon final discussion, the Board will send a letter of intent to the Mr. Trans USA titleholder within seven business days.

In the event that the revocation of the title occurs, the unpaid cash stream will immediately cease, and The Mr. Trans USA titleholder will not receive any other compensation.

Should the national office deem necessary to remove the title, the National Office may or may not recognize the winner of Mr. Trans USA. Depending on this judgement, the Mr. Trans USA titleholder, for all intent and purposes, will not be recognized in the recorded history on the Mr. Trans USA website or any other publication about the Mr. Trans USA contest.

If revocation of the Mr. Trans USA title occurs, the Mr. Trans USA titleholder will be required to reimburse the entire cost of the prize package paid to the Mr. Trans USA titleholder reign to date. Additionally, the entire material prize package must be reimbursed. Reign to date is defined as the time between the moment of coronation and the actual time of title revocation. "Material prize package" includes the official Mr. Trans USA medallion and any other physical prizes received as a result of coronation as Mr. Trans USA.

### **First Alternate Position**

1. The contestant chosen as first alternate must be prepared to fulfill the duties of the titleholder, if for any reason the titleholder is unable to fulfill his duty.
2. The first alternate does not have the right of refusal to be promoted to the titleholder position if the opportunity occurs within zero (0) days to six (6) months from the date of that particular contest. After that period, the first alternate has the option to accept or deny without penalty.
3. If the first alternate position titleholder is promoted the promoter will make every effort to make the coronation experience meaningful. This includes certain actions such as a dedicated coronation ceremony.
4. If the first alternate is promoted to titleholder, at minimum the promoter is obligated to remit to the promoted individual any remaining cash prize that was deemed payable to the winner as listed in the promoter's handbook.

### **Suspension of Privilege to Compete**

Justification for suspension of privilege to compete and the length of time includes but not limited to:

1. Qualified contestants who fail to compete without a justifiable reason (medical emergency, active military deployment, etc.) will receive a 3-year suspension. ***Contestants who have conducted fundraising initiatives will be required to reimburse their sponsors and make a public notice that they will be doing so, which will include the date by which the sponsors will receive the reimbursement.***
2. Any contestants or affiliates engaging in unsportsmanlike conduct will receive a 3-year suspension.
3. Contestants suspended 3 times may be permanently banned from competing in the future.
4. If a contestant is banned after qualifying all prizes must be returned to the promoter within 30 days.

5. The Mr. and Miss Trans USA system will respect any ban from other national pageantry systems when aware. Such suspensions will carry forward to the Mr. Trans USA contest unless otherwise approved by the National Office.

# Mr. Trans USA 2023 Registration Contract and Release

\_\_\_\_\_ (Initial) I understand that during my reign as Mr. Trans USA, I may be asked to make appearances where I might be asked to perform, speak publicly, act as a mentor, and judge other contests (among other engagements). I understand that each event may require different things of me and that negotiations with event promoters must be handled on a case-by-case basis.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Initial) I understand that if I win Mr. Trans USA, I will be required to attend my give up at the next Mr. Trans USA competition, where I will receive the remainder of my prize package.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Initial) I understand that if I Mr. Trans USA, I will not be able to compete or represent any other national title without the written consent of the Board.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Initial) I understand that if I win or place at Mr. Trans USA, that I will be awarded the prizes as explained to me in this Application. If for any reason, I am unable to fulfill my obligations, I understand that I must forfeit my role as Mr. Trans USA, return the prize package to the promoter, and forfeit the title to the next qualified contestant.

**RELEASE:** By submitting this application, I hereby agree to release and hold harmless The Mr. and Miss Trans USA National Pageantry System, their agents, servants, and employees from liabilities and/or responsibilities whatsoever resulting from, associated with, or arising out of my participation in the contest or any related activities. I also hereby release myself from any rights to videotaping (sound and/or video), photography, recording, still camera or motion pictures of this contest. I understand that I have no rights to any of the recordings that I appear in/on or the future sales thereof. I hereby agree that my name or any photography taken of me during the contest may be used for publication for promotional purposes of any advertising publicity.

By my submission of this application, I affirm and attest that I have read the Rules and Regulations of the Contest and the exclusive contract and hereby agree and covenant to abide by these terms and execute the same — and that all information provided is correct to the best of my knowledge. I have read the above release and understand the contents within.

**Legal Name (Electronic Signature):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

# **Judging Requirements and Expectations**

*From the Mr. and Miss Trans USA Handbook*

***To ensure transparency in our adjudication process, we have included this information related to our judging policies and procedures.***

Judges will be provided with the information contained within this guide well in advance of the contest. In addition, the promoters and current titleholders will review the following with all judges prior to the competition at the judges' orientation session: category descriptions, proper scoring procedures, scoresheet and comment instructions, contest schedule.

1. There will be no talking at the judge's table among judges or to anyone around the table while a category is in progress. Questions should be directed to the head judge, unless otherwise instructed.
2. There should be no comments made by any of the judges concerning a particular contestant during or after a particular judging section (i.e., "that was great").
3. No alcoholic beverages are permitted at the judge's table. Judges will not become excessively intoxicated during the contest.
4. Judges will refrain from applauding or overreacting to any contestant's presentation.
5. A judge's attendant will be appointed to care for the judge's needs. Promoters, attendants, and other persons are never to interrupt the judge's concentration while a contestant is being judged.
6. Judges will not discuss their scoring with anyone except the promoter, reigning Mr. Trans USA, or an official representative. Questions should be answered by the aforementioned only.
7. At no time will judges be allowed in a contestant's hotel room or vice versa.
8. All judges are required to stay at least one (1) hour after the contest ends to provide critiques. The critique is designed to advise the contestant of improvements needed and to acknowledge strong points of the contestant's package. All judges will be required to provide contestants with their contact information for further discussion should this be necessary.
9. Judges should be dressed in "business casual" (no t-shirts, shorts, jeans, or tennis shoes) at minimum.
10. The official representative has the authority to question any judge who violates these rules and relieve a judge of his/her duty after careful scrutiny of a rule infraction. The entire score sheet of every category may be removed for the judge in question. However, clear communication must occur between the representative, the promoter, and the judge. Should a judge be disqualified during competition, scores of the disqualified judge will not be included in the total cumulative score of the contestants. The total cumulative score shall be the scores from the remaining panel of judges, and the Olympic scoring procedure will not be used. Likewise, the disqualified judge will not be allowed to participate in the critique session.
11. Judges will be selected based on reputation of integrity, qualifications, and in strict avoidance of conflicts of interest.
12. Judges will refrain from announcing their role until an official release of information by the Board.
13. Judges will refrain engaging with social media related to the contest until its conclusion. No texting will be permitted at the judges' table. Should a judge feel the need to text, it should be done once the entire

category of competition has concluded whereby the judge should then leave the judge's table.

14. Administrative point deductions shall not be the responsibility of the panel of judges. The judges should score according to the category descriptions as applied to the contestant presentation for which they are currently reviewing.

15. While each judge is permitted to use their own technique of scoring, this technique must be applied to each contestant consistently (e.g., when deducting 5 points for poor fit around the arms, this must be the deduction used for all cases).

16. No matter how many times a judge has seen a particular outfit, contestant, etc., it will be judged as new.

17. Olympic scoring will be used, meaning that the highest and lowest scores in the category are dropped for each contestant. Of the panel of seven judges, one judge must be designated as the head judge. A head judge is defined as the most qualified and experienced person to assume the role as supervisor of the panel of judges. This individual should be clearly aware of responsibilities including validating scoring corrections, be attentive to issues that warrant administrative point deductions, clearly communicate issues with contest officials, and ensure that the other Judges have everything needed to conduct their duty as judge.

18. Should a score correction be necessary, a single line should be placed through the incorrect score or total, which must remain readable. The change or corrected total should be written above or below the previous score. The change should be initialed by the scoring judge, as well as the lead judge or the reigning Mr. Trans USA. All changes should be double initialed. Judges should always sign their score sheets and date them at the start of the contest. Tabulators making corrections to category totals should initial the correction and have the scoring judge, a secondary tabulator, and/or the reigning Mr. Trans USA initial the correction. Scores should never be blocked out, scribbled out, whited out or written over. If the tabulator cannot understand the scores on the sheet, they should go to that judge and verify before entering the score into the master sheet.

19. Tabulation will proceed electronically. The judges' attendant will deliver the score sheets to the tabulator for entry into a custom program, which will calculate each total and drop high and low scores automatically. A secondary tabulator will verify that the scores have been entered correctly. Tabulators will also perform an audit to review score sheets for any discrepancies that may indicate an error and for missing scores/comments. The tabulation staff will not inform anyone of the competition results prior to the official announcement.

20. Contestants can pick up their comment sheets and score sheets before leaving the venue immediately after the pageant in the dressing room.

# **Mr. Trans USA 2023 Event Information**

**Date:** September 2023

**Location:** Milwaukee, WI

The Trans USA Board is currently in negotiations to secure a large-scale venue in greater alignment with the needs of our competition and contestants. Mr. and Miss Trans USA 2023 will be held in mid-late September of 2023, in Milwaukee, WI. The official competition dates will be announced in September 2022.

Announcements regarding the Host Hotel will also be made as registration proceeds.

## **Contest Schedule**

The competition schedule will be based on the number of contestants registered and will be announced in full several months prior to the national pageant. However, contestants should expect the competition to run Friday through Sunday. Changes to this tentative arrangement, if necessary, will be announced well in advance.

## **Ticket/Souvenir Book Information**

Information related to ticket sales and the national souvenir book will be announced as the contest date approaches.

## **Dressing Room Policy**

All contestants, their assistants, and promoters must adhere to these policies. Violations of these policies will result in administrative deductions. Contestants are responsible for the actions, conduct, and the consequences of those actions of their helpers, assistants, etc.

1. Only one (1) assistant per contestant will be allowed in the dressing room(s) at any time, unless uniformly approved by the promoter.
2. One (1) pass will be given to each contestant which must be shared in cases of multiple assistants.
3. If a pass is lost, a new one may be purchased for \$20. Until the new pass is issued, the contestant assistants will not be allowed to be in the dressing room(s). Only one pass per contestant will be allowed to be in use at any time. Revocation of all dressing room privileges will be the penalty given to any contestant whose assistants are found to be using more than one (1) pass at any time.
4. All persons without a pass will be removed from the location of the contest should they attempt to enter the dressing room(s).