# Talent Contest Rules for Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs State Competition January 16, 2027

(Professional entertainers are not eligible as defined in rule #1)

**PLEASE THOROUGHLY READ AND UNDERSTAND ALL RULES!**

**PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO RULES NUMBER 1, 3, 4 AND 9!**

1. A professional entertainer is someone who has a lot of experience or skill in a particular job or activity. For this contest you **may not participate** if you have been paid fees for performing in your area of talent on a regular basis. **Example:** A dancer who has been paid may enter as a singer. The dancer may not enter as a dance contestant. Engaged in a specified activity as one's paid occupation rather than as a pastime.
2. The entry can only represent one county fair. Each fair may enter only one Junior and one Senior act per year. Entry must represent the county in which they won an actual talent competition in 2026. Runner up act can represent if winner cannot compete.
3. Any act that performs over the 4-minute time limit will be disqualified. **Contestants are not to give an introduction to their act.** The emcee will announce the Fair they represent as the act begins.
4. Age limits each division:
   A. Junior Division: All contestants can be 14 years old or younger on the day and date of the local contest. Junior division contestants can be 15 years old when competing at the State Level in January, if they met the age requirements at their local contest.
   B. Senior Division: Contestants cannot be over 21 years of age on the day and date of their local contest. Senior division contestants can be 22 years old when competing at the State Level in January, if they met the age requirements at their local contest.
5. A piano and floor mikes are the only equipment furnished. Floor mats and lavaliere mikes will need to be furnished by the contestants if needed for their act.
6. The decision of the panel of judges will be final.
7. There will be a setup time limit of 4 minutes per act. This will be timed.
8. To lessen sound prop confusion, when using a USB drive recorded accompaniment, **only the song the contestant is using shall be on the USB drive. No like talent is allowed on the recording. ie. vocal, tap dancing, any like instrument, etc.** This will be carefully monitored.
9. All guests aged 10 and over must purchase a badge, ($25.00). **Actual talent contestants will receive complimentary badges.**
10. The Junior talent show will begin at 1:30 PM on Saturday January 16, 2027, in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield.
11. The Senior talent show will begin at 6:00 PM on Saturday January 16, 2027, in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield.

Please contact either person below with questions.

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