Louisiana Strawberry Queen

CONTRACT

The title of Louisiana Strawberry Queen carries with it a responsibility to carry out your duties accordingly. The following rules have been set forth by the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board of Directors, please be sure you understand each one and its implications.

ELIGIBILITY

1. The Louisiana Strawberry Queen must be a natural born female whose age shall not be less than 18 year of age and not turning 24 years of age by the date of registration for the pageant.

2. The Louisiana Strawberry Queen should have never been married nor should she have ever been pregnant.

3. The Louisiana Strawberry Queen must have been a permanent Louisiana resident within a 50-mile radius of 313 North 6th Street, Ponchatoula, LA (Strawberry Festival Board Building) for at least one year. If during her reign as Louisiana Strawberry Queen, should she move outside the boundaries, keeping the title of Louisiana Strawberry Queen will be at the discretion of the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board of Directors. If during her reign as Louisiana Strawberry Queen should move outside the State of Louisiana, she will resign and relinquish her title immediately, returning the crowns, banners, scepter, train, mantle and all festival attire in the condition in which they were received.

4. The Louisiana Strawberry Queen cannot currently be representing any other fair or festival or currently hold any pageant title. An individual can serve only one year as the Louisiana Strawberry Queen.

5. Immediate family of the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board or Strawberry Festival Board members are not eligible to compete for the Louisiana Strawberry Queen until one full calendar year passes following the member's affiliation with the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board.

REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

6. The Louisiana Strawberry Queen will reign from July 1st following the pageant and will reign until June 30th of the following year.

7. After being selected Louisiana Strawberry Queen, she will be under the supervision of the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board’s Royalty Coordinator, all communications and exchange of information shall be between the Queen and the Royalty Coordinator. The Royalty Coordinator is appointed as the contact person for the Louisiana Strawberry Queen during her reign and will make all arrangements for her appearances.
8. Exchange of information regarding the Louisiana Strawberry Queen’s reign, or requests by family members of the queen should be directed through the Louisiana Strawberry Queen to the Royalty Coordinator.

9. The Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board Royalty Coordinator has the final say concerning the Louisiana Strawberry Queen when representing the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival in any way during her reign. The Louisiana Strawberry Queen should not address any other Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board members with inquiries concerning her reign. If there is a grievance against the coordinator, the Louisiana Strawberry Queen should contact the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board Chairman.

10. All publicity regarding the Louisiana Strawberry Queen and the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival will be handled through the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board’s Public Relations Director and coordinated through the Royalty Coordinator when the Louisiana Strawberry Queen is requested for appearances.

11. The Louisiana Strawberry Queen is expected to act in a lady-like manner in public during her reign with or without her crown and/or banner on. Any conduct unbecoming to a queen during your reign, which is recognized as such by the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board, will be grounds for immediate dismissal. The title and all privileges will be revoked immediately and will revert to the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board.

12. Marriage, pregnancy, or living in common law during the reign as the Louisiana Strawberry Queen will result in immediate dismissal with the title and all privileges immediately reverting to the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board.

13. The Louisiana Strawberry Queen is expected to be dressed appropriately while representing the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival. Jeans or shorts of any material are not acceptable wardrobe unless the itinerary calls for them. Anytime the Louisiana Strawberry Queen is to be introduced in public she must wear a dress, skirt or a nice pantsuit.

14. The Louisiana Strawberry Queen is not permitted to affiliate, represent, or endorse any business as the Louisiana Strawberry Queen nor is she to solicit donations, sponsors or hold fundraisers to aid in the financial end of her reign that is not paid for by the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board.

15. The Louisiana Strawberry Queen is NOT allowed to enter other contests except Louisiana Association of Fairs and Festivals Queen’s Pageant. The Louisiana Strawberry Queen is NOT allowed to promote or represent any other festival, organization, or business in any capacity. To serve in any other capacity must be with the approval of the Royalty Coordinator. The Louisiana Strawberry Queen is not allowed to judge any pageants or contests without permission from the Royalty Coordinator.
16. The Louisiana Strawberry Queen is **not required** to participate in the Louisiana Association of Fairs and Festivals (LAFF) Queen’s pageant. If the Louisiana Strawberry Queen elects to participate in the Queen’s pageant, the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board will be responsible for the entry fees, registration, and accommodations for the Louisiana Strawberry Queen only. Any expenses incurred by parents, family members, and/or friends will be their sole responsibility.

17. The Louisiana Strawberry Queen is **required** to participate in the Krewe of Louisianans Mardi Gras Ball in Washington D.C. The Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board will pay for meals, hotel, events, airline tickets and any other registration fees for the Louisiana Strawberry Queen only. The Louisiana Strawberry Queen is required to ship the train, mantle and scepter at her own convenience and will be reimbursed. In the event someone travels with her to this event, any expenses incurred by parents, family members, and/or friends will be their sole responsibility.

18. The Louisiana Strawberry Queen must attend local functions she is invited to with the approval of the Royalty Coordinator. Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival events take priority over event invitations or personal events. The Louisiana Strawberry Queen is welcome to attend the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board meetings to speak about her reign to date, and then **will be excused from the meeting**. Any discussions held regarding her reign or board business should be kept in confidence.

19. The Louisiana Strawberry Queen may not attend any function without an invitation and the approval of the Royalty Coordinator. No personal e-mail address shall be utilized for receiving festival/function invitations. All electronic invitations should be through e-mail sent to StrawberryQueen@bellsouth.net. Unacceptable formats of electronic invitations include any social media outlets (i.e. Facebook, Instagram, etc.) All mailed invitations must be sent to the PO Box 446, Ponchatoula, LA 70454. This address must be used for all correspondence. The queen’s personal address may be given only to friends for personal mailings.

20. If invited, parish functions will take priority over festival invitations or personal events. The Louisiana Strawberry Queen must attend 20 festival events during her reign. The following 10 are mandatory if invited: 1) Fur and Wildlife, 2) Bridge City Gumbo, 3) Gonzales Jambalaya, 4) International Rice, 5) Louisiana Orange, 6) Shrimp & Petroleum, 7) Louisiana Sugar, 8) Breaux Bridge Crawfish, 9) Rayne Frog, 10) Louisiana Cattle. The Louisiana Strawberry Queen must be present during the entire event as called for in the invitation, except in cases of illness, death, or the expressed permission of the Royalty Coordinator.

21. The Louisiana Strawberry Queen is required to send thank you notes to all events attended. In the event the Louisiana Strawberry Queen accepts an invitation but is unable to follow through on the commitment, a written apology is to be sent to the inviting organization as soon as possible. A copy of the letter must be provided to the Royalty Coordinator.
22. The Louisiana Strawberry Queen will not travel alone to any event. Parents, relatives, other festival queens or coordinators or any Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board member are the only people allowed to travel with the Louisiana Strawberry Queen. For each event, the Royalty Coordinator must know whom she will be traveling with, where she is traveling to, when she is leaving and when she will return. “Boyfriends” are not to travel with the Louisiana Strawberry Queen; and with the exception of the queen’s male relatives, no male will be allowed in her room under any circumstances.

23. The crown, banners, scepter, train, mantle and all festival attire are the property of the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board. The Louisiana Strawberry Queen is to treat them with respect at all times. Any damages caused while in the Louisiana Strawberry Queen’s possession, not including normal wear, will be repaired at the queen’s expense.
   - Crowns should be kept in cases when not in use. The “large” crown is worn only at Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival functions, Krewe of Louisiana Mardi Gras Ball in Washington D.C., and Evening Presentations. The travel “smaller” crown should be worn when attending all other events and functions throughout the year.
   - Train and mantle are only used when invitations request them. They are to be kept in their cases at all times.
   - Scepter is used only at time when train and mantle are worn.
   - Two banners are provided to the Louisiana Strawberry Queen to wear all year long. One dress banner, which is presented at the time of her crowning, and the “fun” banner, which will be made after she is crowned. (She may design the “fun” banner with the approval of the Royalty Coordinator.) Any additional banners may be worn with the approval of the Royalty Coordinator.

24. An educational scholarship of $4,000.00 will be awarded to the Louisiana Strawberry Queen at the end of her reign. This scholarship will only be awarded as tuition for a post-secondary education pursuit and made payable to the institution of her choice at the discretion of the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board.

25. Should the Louisiana Strawberry Queen find it impossible to fulfill her duties accordingly and resign her title, all property of the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board must be returned immediately in the condition that it was received. Also, at the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board of Directors discretion, the resigning Queen will reimburse the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board any expenses they have endured during her reign.

26. If at any time the reigning Louisiana Strawberry Queen does not or will not abide by and/or comply with this contract set as stated by the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board; the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board of Directors reserves the right to deduct up to $500.00 from the scholarship per infraction, up to the revocation of the title and associated privileges as the Louisiana Strawberry Queen. If a complaint is lodged against the Louisiana Strawberry Queen; the Royalty Coordinator shall give her a warning following the first complaint from a public source. On any second or subsequent complaint, from the same source or three complaints from different public sources, the Louisiana Strawberry Queen shall appear before the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board of Directors which will determine any further action.
27. If, at the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board of Directors discretion, they elect to replace the reigning Louisiana Strawberry Queen, the crowns, banners, scepter, train, mantle, and all property of the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board must be returned within 24 hours in the conditions that they were received. Also, at the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board of Directors discretion, the removed Queen will reimburse the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board any expenses they have incurred during her reign.

28. If it is necessary for the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board of Directors to obtain an attorney to enforce these provisions, the removed queen shall be responsible for any attorney fees and court cost incurred.

29. Should the Louisiana Strawberry Queen relinquish her title, or the title be revoked by the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board of Directors, the next highest score in the Louisiana Strawberry Queen’s Pageant will become the Louisiana Strawberry Queen at the discretion of the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board of Directors.

I HAVE READ THE CONTRACT AS SET AND STATED BY THE PONCHATOULA STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

I UNDERSTAND EACH RULE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS.

UPON ACCEPTING THE TITLE OF LOUISIANA STRAWBERRY QUEEN, I HEREBY ACCEPT THE RESPONSIBILITIES AS STATED AND WILL ABIDE BY ALL THE RULES.

SHOULD I BE IN BREECH OF THE CONTRACT, I UNDERSTAND THAT IT WILL BE AT THE PONCHATOULA STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS DISCRETION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT I WILL RELINQUISH MY TITLE.

I FURTHER UNDERSTAND THAT MY FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE RULES MAY RESULT IN MY DISMISSAL AT WHICH TIME I AGREE TO RETURN SAID PRIVILEGES AND PROPERTIES IN GOOD CONDITION IMMEDIATELY (OR UPON DEMAND) TO THE PONCHATOULA STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL BOARD.

_________________________  __________________________  __________________________  __________________________
LOUISIANA STRAWBERRY QUEEN XLIX  PRINT NAME  SIGNATURE  DATE
2020 CHAIRMAN  DATE
WITNESS  WITNESS

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Louisiana Strawberry Queen

CLARIFICATION OF EXPENSES

Reimbursable Expenses

1. Auto travel charge to and from any event when representing the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival at $0.50 per mile from the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board Building. (313 N 6th Street, Ponchatoula, LA)
2. Maximum of 25 digital prints no larger than 4 x 6, per event visited. Photo processing will not be reimbursed when Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board photographer is present.
3. Room charges are reimbursable only if one is not provided and one of the following apply: 1) Must stay overnight for next day activities and she is over 60 miles from home or 2) Event ends after 9:00 p.m. and she is more than two hours from home. Overnight accommodations must be approved prior by the Royalty Coordinator. Room charge only, no room service, pay per view, etc.
4. Meal expenses for Louisiana Strawberry Queen only if not provided during scheduled activity. This does not include meals during travel to and from event.
5. Any pictures, buttons, thank-you cards, and stamps to mail out Strawberry Festival correspondence. Queen must have prior approval from Royalty Coordinator.
6. All expenses incurred during the Krewe of Louisiana Mardi Gras Ball in Washington D.C. Expenses include travel packet, airfare, hotel stay, and registration for QUEEN ONLY.

Non-Reimbursable Expenses:

1. Purchase of camera(s), SD cards or any other electronics or electronic accessories.
2. Clothes, makeup, hair accessories, shoes, personal items, personal gifts, souvenirs, or queen's out-going/in-coming gifts.
3. Automobile repairs. If personal automobile is used for transport to and from activities.
4. Cell phone or personal phone bills.
5. Parking fees will not be paid.
6. Should the Louisiana Strawberry Queen cause or be involved in an automobile accident while representing the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival in any capacity, it is understood that her private automobile insurance carrier will be responsible for all damages. It is also understood and agreed that the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board carries only liability coverage.

The above listed Clarification of Expenses applies to the expenses of the Louisiana Strawberry Queen and the Royalty Coordinator only. This does not include parent, other family members, friends, etc.

Any entry fees for parades, etc will be paid for by the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board. The Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board provides candy to be thrown at these events. No other throws will be provided or reimbursed.
A detailed receipt must be presented to be reimbursed for any expenses incurred. All receipts should be presented to the Royalty Coordinator no later than the day before the monthly meeting. The Royalty Coordinator will complete and submit a voucher to the Treasurer. All receipts must be original, any expenses incurred at festivals, fairs, etc. must contain the festival, fair, etc. name and date.

The Louisiana Strawberry Queen has no authority to use any charge account(s) held by the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival, Royalty Coordinator, etc. All expenses must be paid out-of-pocket, and all “approved” expenses will be reimbursed at the monthly board meeting. The Royalty Coordinator and/or Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board reserves the right to deny any receipt or voucher if they feel it is invalid or not approved prior to purchase.

I ACCEPT THE ABOVE-MENTIONED CLARIFICATIONS OF EXPENSES AND REIMBURSEMENT AND WILL ADHERE TO THEM.

LOUISIANA STRAWBERRY QUEEN XLIX

PRINT NAME

____________________________________
SIGNATURE

DATE

2020 CHAIRMAN

DATE

____________________________________
WITNESS

WITNESS
**Louisiana Strawberry Queen**

**ENTRY FORM**

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

I HEREBY SWEAR THAT THE INFORMATION STATED ON THE ENTRY FORM IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, AND ANY INFORMATION FOUND FALSIFIED WILL BE GROUNDS FOR DISQUALIFICATION.

I AGREE TO CONDUCT MYSELF IN A LADY-LIKE MANNER WHILE COMPETING FOR THE TITLE OF LOUISIANA STRAWBERRY QUEEN. IF NOT, I WILL BE REFUNDED MY ENTRY FEE AND WILL NOT BE ABLE TO COMPETE.

I HAVE READ THE ATTACHED CONTRACT AND CLARIFICATION OF EXPENSES OF THE PONCHATOULA STRAWBERRY BOARD. IF CHOSEN AS QUEEN, I WILL ABIDE BY ALL THE RULES AND REGULATIONS. I WILL TRAVEL TO PROMOTE THE PONCHATOULA STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL AS REQUIRED. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT IF FOR ANY REASON I AM UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO FULFILL MY DUTIES AS LOUISIANA STRAWBERRY QUEEN, OR THAT MY CONDUCT IS DEEMED DISRESPECTFUL, THE TITLE WILL BE RELINQUISHED AT ONCE AND THE CROWN, SCEPTER, TRAIN, MANTLE AND BANNERS WILL BE RETURNED IMMEDIATELY IN THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH IT WAS RECEIVED.

Signature of Contestant: ________________________________________________________________

Date: ______________________________________________________________________________

Signature: __________________________________________________________________________

Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Pageant Director

Date: ______________________________________________________________________________

Revised 03/2019