

NATIONAL

BEARDED

EMPRESS

*Official Rules and Regulations*



*Revision*  
*10/7/2019*

# **W**elcome to the National Bearded Empress/Emperor

## Pageantry System!

**W**e are beyond elated you have chosen to express your art, talent, and beautiful beardedness by competing in The National Bearded Empress pageant. Our motto is

“WHY REIGN, WHEN YOU CAN RULE”

And Rule YOU SHALL! We were founded on the principles that drag and art are expressions of the human fluidity. We expect the best, because bearded beauties are the best. National Bearded Empress/Emperor Pageantry Rules\*\* THIS IS NOT A GENDER, AGE, OR BODY SPECIFIC PAGEANT SYSTEM! Art is fluid and so are we! A Bearded Empress must be a person 21 years of age, MUST perform with a beard (mustache may or may not be included). The beard may be Natural, Drawn, or Prosthetic/Artificial. Titleholder must maintain and perform with their beard throughout their reign and while promoting the title and system. Contestants must adhere to the contestant contract agreement and the rules therein.

## ADMINISTRATIVE POINT DEDUCTIONS

**A**dministrative point deductions carry a purpose of ensuring a standard of excellence is carried in everything a future Empress does during their time ruling within in the system. Committee members and owner of National bearded Empress will be the responsible party for deductions based on reports or firsthand observations of standards not being met in the following areas:

1. Tardiness-
  - a. Tardiness to registration, call times, deadlines of contractual agreements designated by National team, late music submissions will result in a 25 point overall deduction of contestant score after categories are tabulated.
  - b. Contestant will be informed as soon as humanly possible of the administration of the infraction.

2. Incomplete contract –

- a. The contestant agreement and receipt of entry fee **MUST** be completed at the time of registration if no earlier time is announced by the owner of The National Bearded Empress Pageantry System. Failure to pay entry fee will disqualify contestant from being able to compete the night of Nationals.

3. Dressing room etiquette and policies –

- a. Contestants are directly and solely accountable to report any behavior in the dressing space that would be deemed inappropriate or a direct violation of dressing room policy to the stage manager assigned during registration. Timely reporting is crucial so that stage management can intervene. Administrative points MAY be deducted based on severity of infraction and timeliness of follow through with involved parties. The following are strictly prohibited:

- i. Colored liquids are not permitted in the dressing room spaces
- ii. Fire hazard violations as per the policies of venue specified upon announcement of National contest location.
- iii. Property damage of the venue or any other contestant belongings.
- iv. Harassment – (behaviors that are placed upon an individual without consent in dressing spaces.
- v. Taking up Unwarranted dressing area space
- vi. Unauthorized persons in the dressing area - \*\*\*Accommodations can be made for individuals requiring additional assistance and should be specified prior to the evening of the pageant. Personal health information will not be disclosed to other contestants, however, indication and potential designated dressing space may be prepared for contestant based upon their needs, and so, other contestants will have to be informed that the use of this space is reserved.\*\*\*
  1. Contestants are allowed one dresser during categories. Additional individuals including escorts, dancers, stage hands, prop and stage techs are only permitted to be in the dressing area after the contestant has completed the previous category.
  2. If individuals are accompanying the contestant for the first category, anyone other than the contestant dresser is only permitted in the dressing space for 20 minutes prior to call time.
  3. Above individuals are **PROHIBITED** to take over public restroom spaces in other areas of the venue as this could potentially be a violation of policy of venue as well as a personal violation to one or more audience members or other individuals in attendance.
- vii. Behaviors of individuals in dressing spaces that could disrupt the flow of the pageant .Any conduct deemed as poor sportsmanship toward another contestant, including verbal, physical destruction of props, costumes or any property will disqualify you from the competition

4. Excessive intoxication or illicit substance use –

- a. Alcohol is NOT permitted in the dressing space. That is the designated areas ONLY for the contestant and dressers. A limit to (1) alcoholic beverage before the pageant on pageant day. Contestants and their crew, may drink after the pageant is completed for that day. It is imperative to remain coherent during the pageant as it requires poise for the maximum effective performance and maintaining professional decorum.

Excessive intoxication will be reported from stage management to National committee and will result in disqualification depending on the gravity of intoxication as this could potentially be a safety hazard.

- b. Illegal substances will not be permitted according to State Law in which the National venue is designated and policy of venue guidelines.

1. Failure to comply after stage management intervenes, forcible removal from the venue and a two year ban from The National Bearded Empress Pageantry System. If under a zero tolerance infraction, a LIFETIME BAN will be placed in effect.

\*\*\*Administrative Deductions will be handled on a case by case basis and point value will be determined based upon the severity of the infraction, including, but not limited to disqualification\*\*\*

## Advisory Board and Internal Committee

The National Bearded Empress Pageantry System Committee and Advisory Board are comprised of Michelle Woods (owner) and bearded artists holding multiple roles as promoters and contestants on regional and national levels within bearded pageantry. The purpose of this Committee is to produce and uphold the standards set forth by the National Bearded Empress system. Addendums to policies and updates to handbook are completed under the direction of the owner and an internal process is set in place where said individuals hold a role of oversight in various areas within the pageant system.

1. The current roles of the committee are to develop the rules, regulations, categories, identity of the system, and support to upcoming National representatives of the system. All are in agreements contractually on individualized bases in order to ensure that their values are in alignment with that of National Bearded Empress. These Emeritus/titleholders uphold the same rules and regulations agreed upon by contestants.

## Advisory Board:

**U**nder the authority of the Internal Committee, individuals can be invited to take part in specific roles limited to their contractual agreements provided by Michelle Woods (owner) for the specified amount of time listed in contractual agreement. Upon completion of contract, Advisory Board members are additionally required to uphold the Regulations set forth by the National Bearded Empress system to maintain the decorum and symbol of excellence National Bearded Empress intends to convey to the public. Failure to uphold these standards may be considered a breach of contract as per signed agreements and can lead to termination of agreement.

1. Any documentation provided to Advisory members is considered intellectual property protected under the National Bearded Empress trademark and is only to be utilized for the purpose served for the purpose of the betterment of the system.
2. Reports that imply a conflict of interest will be considered "willful termination of contract" and will no longer be entitled to clearances provided by National Bearded Empress

## Sponsors:

**S**ponsors are considered anyone to be donating monies, goods, or services to the National Bearded Empress System. Contracts are completed and submitted to National Bearded Empress and details of requests of agreements for promotion will be discussed during the initial verbal agreements with the National office. It is the DUTY of titleholders within the Empress/Emperor System to celebrate these gracious individuals and to ensure contractual agreements are upheld as well. A List will be provided to titleholders and will be instructed by the National office and Emeritus Committee on how to properly promote sponsors.

## Applications for Contestants:

Your pageant package should include:

1. Contestant regulations
2. Category descriptions
3. Any scheduling requirements for roll-call
4. Prize Package information for all placements including disbursement procedures.
5. Dates and times of your pageant.
6. Any other "need to know" information
7. National application packages will be made ready by May 25th of each year.

\*\*\*ADDENDUMS AND REVISIONS OF CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED AND MUST BE SIGNED AND RETURNED IN A TIMELY FASHION IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT UPDATES ARE AGREED UPON\*\*\* Information regarding addendums will be disseminated by members of the National Bearded Empress Committee. Once updated agreements are signed, former revisions and versions of agreement will lawfully be considered null and void.

# \*\*\*\*\* **CODE OF CONDUCT** \*\*\*\*\*

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**C**ode of Conduct Standards for Committee, Advisory Board, Titleholders, Alternate positions, judges or additional hired entertainment/specialists:

1. By entering , all involved (e.g. contestants, titleholders, dancers, dressers, judges, promoters, and formers, etc....) either contractually or through voluntary participation are making agreements to uphold the Rules, Regulations, and Code of Conduct set forth by National Bearded Empress. The Decree of Conduct is as follows :

## TITLEHOLDER/ALTERNATE/EMERITUS CODE OF CONDUCT:

- a. National Bearded Empress upon capturing the title is to be announced as such following their entertainment name in ALL mixed media promotions including but not limited to being announced at any venue in which National Bearded Empress is making a public appearance and/or entertaining as well as within any promotional material produced.
  - a. Use of official National bearded Empress Logo is permissible only through an agreement between promoting designee and The National Bearded Empress office.
  - b. Requests are to be made to the National bearded Empress Press and Public Relations department to seek approval from owner of National Bearded Empress.
- b. National Bearded Empress is required to wear their sash at minimum at any public event where they will be announced as National Bearded Empress. The titleholder is to either be dressed as their entertainment persona or may be dressed appropriately for the occasion titleholder is present for
- c. Crown will be required to wear during any crowning ceremony you are in attendance of.
- d. If applicable and in attendance of another National pageant, National bearded Empress will be required to complete a "National Walk" if one is conducted at the pageant.
- e. Philanthropic work and community service are a part of the responsibility of the titleholder. Previously agreed charity events may be agreed upon between the National Bearded Empress office
- f. You are not to engage in physical violence. National Bearded Empress will look to federal/state laws in cases of self-defense.
- g. Criminal acts that occur during the titleholder's reign will be handled on a case by case basis. Felony charges will result in a "willful termination" of title

### THE FOLLOWING SECTION SPECIFICALLY DEALS WITH SITUATIONS THAT INCLUDE SOCIAL MEDIA SETTINGS

- h. Interviews conducted my any media platform are to be approved through the owner of National Bearded Empress
- i. Presenting oneself professionally both on-stage and off-stage.
- j. Never demean National Bearded Empress, its Committee, Advisory Board, volunteers, or additional staff in contract agreements with the National System.
- k. Never demean or disrespectful to another pageant system or its contestants/titleholders
- l. Never become intoxicated while representing their respective title.
- m. Do not participate in any type of argument or altercation, except as a mediator, while representing your title.

## Communication:

1. All individuals in contractual agreements with National Bearded Empress (with the exception of sponsors) are subject to maintain certain profiles via social media platforms. As some of these platforms are utilized through direct communication and meetings, additional promotional purposes are also served through having these social media platforms.
  - a. Use of official hashtags will be required to be used with any posts connected to National Bearded Empress by the titleholders of the system.
    - i. Hashtags include : #EMPRESS #EMPRESSIVE #BEBEARDED #NATIONALBEARDEDEMPRESS #BEEMPRESSIVE
2. National Promoter will make all arrangements with entertainers, judges, and venues in writing (email) so they have a communication trail.

## Compensation National Bearded Empress for National titleholder and additional placements with Prize packaging:

- All sponsors prior to the night of Nationals will have submitted a contractual agreement of fulfillment to aforementioned agreements with National bearded Empress.
  - Details of how to redeem prize packages from sponsors will have specifications on how applicable contestants will redeem sponsored items or monies.
  - Cash prize is redeemed after crowning and photographs have been taken of the new ruling court members.
    - Signature of receipt may be required for records indicating fulfillment of National Bearded Empress with the Titleholder.
    - If contractual agreement signed at the time registration is not fulfilled for any reason with very few exceptions determined by National Bearded Empress owner, National Bearded Empress is within it's right to seize prize package portions or reimbursement in the forms of money receipt, direct return of items, or reallocation of services within (30) days of the titleholder or alternates received prize package.
    - Titleholder is encouraged to formally submit their resignation in writing and is expected to work with the National Bearded Empress office to make Public Relations announcements.
    - Failure to comply will result in a permanent ban of former titleholder at any National Bearded Empress events until all prizes and monies have been returned.



## Competition Music:

1. Competition music / Video should be submitted in quality condition via Flash drive a backup file, flash drive, and CD available
  - a. Administrative deductions will be applied for improperly labeled or Media received in poor condition.

Contestants must adhere to the contestant contract agreement and the rules therein. \*\*FAILURE TO DO SO COULD RESULT IN A BAN OF UP TO two years or permanently with the National Bearded Empress system. Please direct any questions regarding the handbook either to Committee members or owner. \*\*

# CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

**\*\*\*ALL CONTESTANTS ARE REQUIRED TO SUPPLY MUSIC WITH 3 COPIES ON USB/FLASHDRIVE FOR EACH CATEGORY\*\*\***

## Sovereign Hearing- Interview (150pts) (6 minutes)

This category serves the purpose of giving the judge's panel an opportunity to get to know the contestant on a personal level. The title of National Bearded Empress is to be treated like a position of authority. Contestants will be given an opportunity to present themselves in front of the panel of judges pertaining to what running for empress means to you.

Prior to Sovereign Hearing, the panel of judges will be permitted to review the social media platforms held by the contestant. Questions during this category could be drawn from interactions reviewed on your social media account, from the content of your answer to what NBE means to you, or questions within the main characteristics that make a contestant #Empressive.

You will be given an opportunity to introduce yourself to each judge, handshaking is able to be decided by the contestant being interviewed. The Head judge (who will be identified no later than the meeting at the time of registration) will invite you to sit and prompt with the question):

“What does competing for National Bearded Empress mean to you?” (6-minute start time begins once head judge asks the contestant this question)

As previously mentioned, judges will have an opportunity to ask follow up questions. It is recommended that a contestant behaves like a true “Sovereign” and remains aware of giving each judge a chance to ask the contestant a question. Contestants will not be judged on gender constraints. The following areas will make up the score for each contestant:

**Proper introduction (20 points)** – Contestant MUST identify themselves with their Entertainment name followed by the name they personally identify. \*\*Contestants are not scored on but are encouraged to take this time to express their preferred pronouns if so desired\*\*

**Appearance (40 points)** – The first crowned National Bearded Empress during their reign will be addressing the public via social media or potentially upon travelling as the system grows. NBE wants a ruler who is personable on and off stage. Contestants are encouraged NOT to be dressed as their entertainment persona during this category, but a royal reflection of THEMSELVES. Garments should be reflective of the contestant’s interpretation of what a ruler would wear during an important and intimate social setting. (Think the Royal family addressing Parliament or business attire.)

**Public Address and Poise (50 points)** – This area focuses on the ability of the contestant to present themselves to the public. The future titleholder is expected to be able to be an inviting reflection of what fans or future contestants could expect from their ruler. Contestants should follow etiquette of a panel interview setting while also remaining engaging and personal with the panel. This is not to say an “act” should be put on for the panel.

**Content and Message (40 points)** – The future rulers are going to be diverse, and the expectation is not to be the same, but to be able to present ones ideas, viewpoints, respectfully while respecting the differing views of the diverse community the future Empress represents. Expression in passion, engaging the audience, and thoughtful answer are elements that add to these criteria.

A Member of the committee will have been designated to keep time on behalf of the contestant and a time check will be given when there is 1-minute left. If time permits, a contestant can make a closing statement to recap the hearing. When 6 minutes is counted by the committee member present, the interview is closed and no interaction after cutoff is tallied into the contestants score.

## **Royal Line of Succession – Presentation. (3 Minute Time Limit) (325 pts)**

This category is making a statement staking your claim to the throne! Over time in history, elaborate and lavish displays became a custom for monarchs local or visiting to present themselves to the people. The purpose of this category is for contestants to seize the opportunity to express their individuality and provide an introduction to what could be their kingdom. Category calls for attire to be a creative display of the contestant's individuality. This will be your first introduction to the judge's panel. The goal is to showcase why you should be next in line to be the crowned Empress.

It is a celebration of one of the BIGGEST core values of what it means to be National Bearded Empress. The future ruler has the duty of leaving an #EMPRESSSION wherever they go. The contestant should be making a statement staking your claim to the throne!

Over time in history, elaborate and lavish displays became a custom for monarchs local or visiting to present themselves to the people. And so, this category is for contestants to seize the opportunity to express their individuality and provide an introduction to what could be their kingdom. Category calls for attire to be a creative display of the contestant's individuality. This will be your first introduction to the court of Empress. Just as in history, every element of this category is to showcase why you should be next in line to be the crowned Empress. Scoring will be based on the following:

**Garment fit and style (75 Points):** Should be reflective of the character of the contestant and is a creative category. The focus of this area regards to polish of execution in the chosen attire.

**Poise and Presence (50 Points):** has a focus of scoring the contestant on one's ability to command the attention of the audience WITHOUT yet speaking. Seizing the opportunity to share the "look" by modelling in a way called for by the vision of the contestant. Contestants are not permitted to engage in non-consensual touch of attendees, judges, or existing members of the NBE court.

**Creativity and Cohesion (100 Points):** the focus of this element is scoring the overall realization of vision of the contestant and its intent to leave a lasting impression through the pageant. You want to strive to look the part of a Royal in your own unique way. This element is to help the judges see that you have the ability to make your visions FULLY realized.

**Speaking on the microphone (100 points)** (looking for clean clear ability to communicate with your audience and esteemed panel of judges) Interpreters may be used as necessary. **A Concise, creative, captivating communicator that causes the kingdom to concentrate ONLY on this contestant is counted as capable or carrying the crown**

\*\*\*\* A FIRST #EMPRESSION IS A LASTING #EMPRESS \*\*\*\*

ADDITIONAL NOTES: Royal Succession DOES permit the contestant to be accompanied by other individuals and props. Dimensions, stage specs, and tech specs can be provided at the contestant's request, however, are also encouraged to do their own independent research. The use of liquids, animals, fire, and additional safety hazards including chemicals, potential allergens to audience members, staff, and additional contestants and entourage is STRICTLY prohibited. Further restraints, if existent with Venue of the pageant or the state that governs the venue must also be considered\*\*

**SEE SECTION REGARDING TIME LIMITS IN CONTESTANT HANDBOOK!!!!!!**

## **REGAL FLAIR \ Talent – (6 Minute Time Limit) (275 pts)**

**\*\*\*Music must be provided by the contestant. Max 6 minutes total to perform your talent. You will also have 2 minutes to set up your talent and 2 minutes to take down your production.10 minutes total.**

Any talent presentation is acceptable. Can be a solo talent or a production number. This is your time to express your art! Use of fire, animals living or expired, liquids, excessive glitter OR paper, bodily fluids, weapons, or any items which could potentially cause personal or audience harm are not acceptable. Nudity of any form is subject to local law restrictions.

**Presence and Coordination (100 points)** -Choreographed or calculated, This area focuses on the contestants ability to celebrate and communicate their individuality. This also focuses on cleanliness of execution

**Impact /Entertainment (100 points)** - commanding and the audience attention with a moment worth being celebrated and commemorated. Comical or creating a deeper connection with the audience

**Vision and Design (75 points)** - cohesion and calculation of choices of costume, coif. Think commitment to the creative details of the smaller aspects of the piece presented including stylization, music choice, and that the presentation is clearly understood as a full idea.

While talent carries a lower score, historically, many pageants place significant point weight on this category. The importance of the message in this decision is to have an Empress who will show consistency and dedication to all categories regardless of point value. The Crown celebrates Consistency and it COUNTS. #empresive

## **REVOLUTIONARY AMBIENCE \ HIGH FASHION (300 pts)**

This category will show your expertise in highlighting BEARDED ROYALTY. You will be leading the path of our future and lineage for all the days you rule. Guiding us with your highest fashion look to Rule over the empire as National Bearded Empress. Beard must be integrated with your look.

This category is intended to present an interpretation of how monarchs historically impacted fashion trends. While history had many laws that restricted the use of certain colors in its higher this category is to express freedom in fashion expression and a rebellion against the norm. This creative category is intended to stretch the imagination and restrictions of historical fashion trends.

**Regal Impact (100 points)** -this area focuses on the intent to deliver a high fashion, polished, and presentation of wealth (open to interpretation unique to contestant) & its unique stretch of fashion trends to shape the future of fashion.

**Modeling (100 points)** - This area focuses on scoring the contestants ability to showcase the beauty of the garments selected in this category. Modeling should be reflective of the style of garment worn and should be presented in a way for onlookers to revel in its construction.

**Creativity and vision (100 points)** this area focuses on scoring the contestants ability to execute an overall vision that paints an artistic picture of the contestants Eye for detail, cleanliness, and cohesion.

## **SUPREME DECREE On Stage Question – (150 pts)**

Prior to the pageant and during registration, contestants will submit a bio to be completed and submitted at call time. All contestants at the end of their promenade of Revolutionary Ambience/ High Fashion, will be asked a question pertaining to being a bearded entertainer. It should take less than 3 minutes to be executed.

**Content (60 points)** - fulfill the question with an answer that satisfies what is being asked. This area remains

**Clarity & Concentration (45 points)** - ability to convey to your people what your answer is without question and communicate without words that the contestant understood and actively listened to what was being asked. This tests the contestant's ability to empathize with those around them to be able to find the best way to speak to others on a common plane.

**Composure (45 points)** - ability to stay calm under pressure. There could be times during the rule of an Empress that conflict could arise. This area focuses on being able to see that the contestant is capable of not cracking during conflict and can (when safe to do so) coerce others to calm down

Yes, the content of a question is very important. The words chosen can communicate compassion and can create amazing and new ways of thinking or showing someone that while different and unique we can COME together. People will also, however, remember JUST as much how you made them feel when NOT being attentive or keeping control of yourself. This is truly an opportunity to move people. It's a CHANCE to show you care about the crown..... Whether you cry or cackle. It's your chance to CONNECT from the heart.

\*\*\*Should you have any questions please feel free to reach out and ask\*\*\*

### **Contest Scores:**

1. Pageant scores are accumulative, and all categories are judged
2. Each judge at time of Judges briefing will write their names on each sheet provided in judges folders.
3. Folders will consist of individual sheets for all categories and a comment sheet with two columns. Judges MUST write comments that would reflect where the contestant deductions occur for each category, however, do not have to designate a specific number for each deduction made.
4. Upon the completion of each category, Judges Sheets will be collected and tabulated by individual designated by National Bearded Empress owner and AT MINIMUM one Committee member aside from the National Owner. Owner of National Bearded Empress will not be directly involved in tabulation, however, will carefully oversee with

- one other committee member present to ensure accuracy and proper use and collection of judges score sheets
2. Breakdown of all sub-score categories is detailed in the category descriptions section.
  3. Scores will be tabulated through the use of programs authorized by the National Bearded Empress Committee.
  4. \*\*\* In the unique event score sheets are improperly handled or completed, the committee will meet with the existing panel of judges to review and identify sheets in question.
    - a. Deductions deemed to exceed a level of appropriate deduction will result in the judges' scores for the evening to be thrown out entirely and will not be included in the final scores of ANY contestant.
    - b. Judges who are suspected to be attempting to falsify or sway the results of the pageant will be subject to a ban from National bearded Empress for a time determined appropriate by the National Bearded Empress Committee.

### Crown Jewels and Sash Standardization:

Crowns are designed by the official jeweler of National Bearded Empress and cannot be individually embellished or adorned or altered from its custom design. Sash's may be adorned with beading or rhinestones approved by the National Committee as long as it remains within the intended original design and does not block or hide the official Emblem or lettering on the sash.

Any Changes or additions to the crown jewels will be decided as a governing body of committee members and advisory board. General public opinion may be invited to share their thoughts; however, final decisions will be determined by the inner most governing body, the National Bearded Empress Committee.

### Category Point Deductions:

Point deductions within the National Bearded Empress Pageantry System is intended

### Disqualification of Contestants:

1. The National Bearded Empress Committee and Owner would prefer not to disqualify contestants if possible; however, some activities and behaviors have the potential to cause irreversible damage to the National Bearded Empress system. Some of these behaviors include but are not limited to:
  - a. Selling illicit substances during the rule of a titleholder or incarceration

- b. Selling trade secrets or unauthorized use or exchange of administrative documentation
- c. Mishandling of Social Media as per policy
  - i. Social Media Policy:
    - 1. Representatives of any kind and on any level within the National Bearded Empress system will always abide by socially appropriate standards becoming of a ruler.
      - a. As a representative of this system, your actions are a reflection not just of yourself, but of the system you aspire to be a part of. Always treat others with dignity and respect .

\*\*\*\*For National Bearded Empress to stand out as a system that consists of a breed of entertainers and titleholders with an exemplary reputation, we must be mindful that actions on social media can come under scrutiny all too easily. Be mindful of your decisions. If complaints are brought to the attention of the National office, an investigation will be required and suspension from duties may be necessary until the Committee completes their investigation. \*\*\*

### Duties of Ruling as National Bearded Empress

1. National Bearded Empress agrees to participate in fundraising events either of their own accord, or through the direction of the National office.
2. Public appearances in their local entertainment circuits as well as any other-directed venues or events. (To be determined by the National Office.)
3. National Bearded Empress will uphold the Code of Conduct at all times.
4. National Bearded Empress will be present during their “give up” and entertain during the National Bearded Empress Pageant the following year.
5. The titleholder is expected to partake in promotions of the system via social media, entertainment venues, and fundraisers.
6. Contestant outreach and audience engagement is a very big part of the role of being National Bearded Empress. Responding in a timely manner, within reason, is expected of the titleholder in order to answer questions aspiring future contestants may have. Titleholder may call upon existing committee members, if able, during times where the titleholder may not be available.
7. The titleholder gets to meet with the existing Committee and bring their own unique ideas for growth and present them to the board.
  - a. A meeting will be requested by the titleholder to their new promoter (owner) of National Bearded Empress
  - b. No more than 1 member of the committee may be absent during the time of this meeting.



- c. A Designee for taking 'meeting minutes' will be selected to take attendance, document details of discussion, divide responsibilities, etc.
          - i. The titleholder, if deemed capable, will be provided the autonomy to work independently on projects that creatively benefit the pageant system.
            1. Accomplishments will remain on the administrative record for future consideration of a seat at the advisory board or if the Official Committee would benefit from expansion.
8. That titleholder has a duty to the community in which National Bearded Empress serves and is expected to have a genuine concern for the individuals who hope to capture a title in the future, their affiliates, as well as future promoters and sponsors.
  - a. Engagement of venues owners, promoters, sponsors, Emcee's, titleholder visitors (National or not) along with their promoters should all be greeted by the national titleholder and treated like a guest.
9. During the night of the titleholders give up, National Bearded Empress will partake and be present for contestant briefing and may be charged with a portion of orientation, and timekeeping for Sovereign Hearing category. In regards to Sovereign Hearing, National Bearded Empress is also present to ensure that. Additionally, National Bearded Empress will be expected to be in sash at the judges table during as much of the pageant as possible.
10. Promotion for individual sponsors may be required in order to uphold contractual agreements made by the National Bearded Empress office with said sponsors. Graciousness for their sponsorship is VITAL and good business ethics.
11. If a titleholder experiences hardship of any kind, it is required that titleholder engages the promoter of National Bearded Empress to decide arrangements. Family emergencies, illness, injury, mental/physical health is very important and transparent grievances will be met with understanding.
  - a. Depending on the severity of the situation, a titleholder in this case may need to step down. In this case, the former titleholder may be invited to participate in National Bearded Empress activities in another facet, or if title was relinquished in the first quarter, titleholder may be eligible to compete for the pageant again.
12. Entertaining at venues if doing multiple numbers ESPECIALLY the night of your give up should include an array of performance.
13. A Theme MAY be selected by the titleholder for the following year's National pageant
14. The night of the titleholder's give up also has a duty of ensuring score sheets ( if applicable) are handled with the utmost care, properly filled out with judges names at the time of registration, and will sign off that all score sheets made it to the tabulator from the judges panel unless preparing to perform. In which case, a member of the committee will seat in the titleholders stead to ensure that score sheets are handled properly.

15. National Bearded Empress will receive orientation from the existing Committee in order to ensure that duties are well understood within the first 30-60 days of their reign.
16. National Bearded Empress will be expected to have photoshoots completed quarterly and vision will be discussed with committee members and owner in order to effectively promote the pageant. Crowns, if photographed WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO BE ELSEWHERE BUT ON THE HEAD OF THE TITLEHOLDER.
- 17.

### Eligibility (Contestants) Requirements:

1. Photo ID should be verified at the pageant; however, you will be address by the pronouns and name you request upon initial completion of your contestant contract.
2. Contestants must be 21 years of age to compete
3. You will be asked about your criminal history. Contestants with open felony charges/ criminal cases may not be eligible to run for National Bearded Empress \*\*\*financial, abuse, or sex crimes (ie: anything regarding children, disabled, or animals) will NOT be admissible.\*\*\* We will consider those who have a felony but are in good standing within the community they live in.
4. Contestant is eligible if their entertainment persona fits the descriptors of the national title. No other restriction regarding gender, sexual orientation, surgical intervention, or identity, body type, or age will ever leave a contestant not eligible.
  - Titleholders must be a bearded entertainer during EVERY public entertainment piece for the immediate two years following their rule.
  - Beards do not have specific requirements regarding fullness, length, or quality as prosthetic, makeup enhanced, partial facial hair is deemed acceptable.
  - Entertainers identified as "non-bearded" entertainment prior to the pageant may run, however, will have to agree to be a bearded performer and may be interviewed privately by the committee prior to their official entry as a contestant to the pageant.

### First Alternate Position:

1. The first Alternate is an important role. Truly, if the winner the night of Nationals is no longer able to rule for whatever reason, the first alternate will be crowned and assume the duties of National Bearded Empress. The first alternate will be contacted by the owner and NO PUBLIC announcement will be permitted to be made until new contractual agreements are made with the First Alternate. Prize package pieces that are able to be retrieved from the former titleholder will be awarded to the new representative within 60 days of accepting the title. Any unfulfilled portions of the prize package after the date of accepting the title will go to the First Alternate ( new Ruling Empress)
2. The First Alternate would be eligible to choose to run again as a contestant if they assume the role of National Bearded Empress if assumption of the role occurs in the 9<sup>th</sup> month of the former titleholders rule or later so long as they fulfill the duties of the Empress for the remainder of that ruling year.

3. The First Alternate, with the support of the committee, will make a public announcement or a series of public announcements and will be provided an orientation from the existing committee in order to assist.

## The Emeritus of National Bearded Empress Pageantry System:

**T**he Emeritus of National Bearded Empress serves as a unique force in the pageant world. These appointed individuals are not being appointed to titles, but are being appointed to become permanent members of the founding Committee of National Bearded Empress. At this time, it is undecided if future Emeritus will be awarded, however, involvement as an advisory member is open to titleholders 6 months after their give up. At this time, the new Advisory member will be designated a function after an open forum style meeting with the existing committee and advisory to help utilize the unique assets this ruler possesses. Roles and functions will be decided and documented as an official "Rule Description" partly created by the titleholder.

Some of the general roles the Emeritus carry out are directly connected to titleholder support in efforts to ensure the titleholder enjoys their reign.

**Morgan Davis**  
**Joey Gallagher**  
**Bearonce Bear**