

DC Royale



Applicant Package

****Updated August 2024****

Dear Applicant:

On behalf of the College of Monarchs and the Board of Directors of the Imperial Court of Washington, DC we thank you for your interest in the DC Royale Pageant. This package contains the information you need to register for the contest and prepare yourself for the competition scheduled for the **third Sunday of November** at **Freddie's Beach Bar** beginning at **8 pm**.

Contestant check in and meeting is at 5pm

The information enclosed in this package includes:

1. Official contestant application and rules acknowledgement
2. Official rules and regulations
3. Competition category explanations and judging criteria
4. Important dates to remember
5. Special instruction sheets for talent category
6. Formal Evening Wear Description sheet

The deadline for returning the completed application to the Imperial Court of Washington, DC (hereinafter referred to as ICWDC) for consideration as a contestant in this pageant is the third Sunday of October. Completed applications and entry fee confirmations must be sent via email.

If you have any questions regarding the contest or the application process, please do not hesitate to contact the Coordinators of the DC Royale Pageant:

Becky Scott (Rockie B Childs-Jewel; rescott323@gmail.com)

Declan Green (BJ Bottoms; declangreenwood89@gmail.com)

Good luck in your quest for the DC Royale crown!

Rules and Regulations

- 1) All DC Royale contestants must be at least 21 years of age by the day of the pageant and have valid government-issued photo identification with them during the contest. Proof of age is required when you turn in your completed application.
- 2) You do not have to be a member of the ICWDC to compete for the titles of DC Royale.
- 3) Miss DC Royale is open to all individuals in the Feminine Line (Drag Queens, Female Impersonators {F.I.'s}, bio-women and transgender women).
- 4) Mr. DC Royale is open to all individuals in the Masculine Line (Drag Kings,

- Male Impersonators {M.I.'s}, bio-men and transgender men).
- 5) Mx. DC Royale is open to all individuals in the Non-binary Line.
 - 6) While there is a potential of three lines vying for the title – feminine, masculine and non-binary – there will only be two DC Royale titleholders.
 - 7) Every contestant is required to pay the **\$30 entry fee**, due **the third Sunday in October**, along with your completed application. This fee must be paid to the Imperial Court of Washington, DC by cash, check, Venmo (@ICWDC) or through the PayPal link on our website - www.imperialcourtdc.org/donations. Please mark “DC Royale Pageant application” in the memo line if using check, Venmo, or PayPal.
 - 8) All assistants and/or helpers are required to pay the admission fee (if any) at the door. All admission fees must be paid in cash (checks/credit cards are not accepted at this event).
 - 9) Unless otherwise excused by the ICWDC Board of Directors, all contestants are required to attend a contestant’s meeting. This meeting is your opportunity to go over any issues or questions you may have before the contest.
 - 10) Contestants will be judged in the following categories: Self-Expression, Talent, Evening Gown/Formal Wear and On-Stage Question.
 - 11) The contestant’s order in the contest will be determined during the contestant meeting by a random drawing.
 - 12) Only audio MP3s are accepted. You are required to email your music selections by **the first Sunday in November**. Email must be clearly marked with the contestant’s name and title of music selection. Neither the DC Royale Pageant nor venue are responsible for the quality of the recording which could affect the scoring of your Talent category.
 - 13) Any contestant found using, or in possession of any illegal substance, or violating any law regarding the use or abuse of alcohol or drugs will immediately be disqualified and required to immediately leave the premises.
 - 14) Any contestant found to have accepted a gratuity of any kind (i.e. money, flowers, toys, plush, etc.) during the pageant will be disqualified from the contest and required to immediately leave the premises.
 - 15) Any contestant asked to leave the pageant and premises will not have their admission fee(s) refunded.
 - 16) Disorderly conduct by any contestant and/or their guests, as determined by the POC/Pageant Coordinator will not be tolerated and will be grounds for immediate disqualification.
 - 17) Stealing or vandalism of any contestant’s property or the property of the facility by any contestant and/or their assistants will not be tolerated and will be grounds for immediate disqualification and removal from the premises.
 - 18) The winner(s) of DC Royale will receive a cash prize of \$100, complimentary tickets to the Gala of the America’s (Coronation), (\$40 value), complimentary tickets to Investitures, Czar’s Ball, and the Imperial Crown Prince & Princess Ball, sash and

crown, and membership in the ICWDC thru the end of the current Monarch's Reign. Membership is granted once the membership form and code of conduct is signed and returned to a member of the Board. One-half of the cash prize will be awarded the night of the pageant. The remaining ½ will be awarded at your Step-Down **after successful completion of your reign and requirements**. The crown and sash are to be worn during all required events, during the following year's pageant (your step-down), and must be returned to the ICWDC Board of Directors upon demand of the ICWDC Board of Directors.

- 19) Previous winners of the DC Royale are not eligible to compete in this contest.
- 20) The winner(s) of DC Royale **are** required to appear at the following events wearing the DC Royale crown **and sash** to represent the DC Royale title:
 - a. Imperial Court of Washington DC – Imperial Crown Prince & Princess Ball (if held; State Function)
 - b. Capital Pride - participate in ICWDC commitments during Pride weekend (eg. ride/walk in the parade, support staffing a table at the festival, support performances during the festival, etc)
 - c. Imperial Court of Washington DC – Czar's Ball (State Function)
 - d. Imperial Court of Washington DC – Coronation (State Function)
 - e. Imperial Court of Washington DC – Investitures (State Function)
- 21) The winner(s) may be excused from one of the required events with Board approval with at least one-month notice.
- 22) The winner(s) of DC Royale **are** obligated to hold a minimum of two (2) fundraisers **each** during their reign. The events must be within the first **nine (9)** months of the reign, total amount raised must be at least \$1,000 **per title holder**. The monies raised during one fundraiser will be designated for the current Reign charities. The monies from the other fundraiser will be designated for the next year's DC Royale Pageant.
- 23) If winners choose to partner with other fundraisers, funds raised will still count towards their total requirement with approval from either the reigning monarchs (if it is an ICWDC Event) – or – The Board of Directors if it is another community groups event.**
- 24) The winners may choose to hold their events together but are still responsible for raising a total of \$1,000 each over the year.**
- 25) The winner(s) of the DC Royale title will conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times while representing the title of DC Royale, in person and on social media.
- 26) The winner(s), if entertaining at court shows/benefits during their reign, will be required to pay any admission to the event and to donate all of their tips to the beneficiaries listed on the flyer for that show – not your fundraising total required for your year. The exception to this is at your step down where reigning title holders are able to keep their tips **as long as you have met your fundraising requirement for**

the reign.

- 27) Failure to appear at the required events could result in disciplinary actions by the Board of Directors, up to and including the loss of your title.
- 28) If the contestant chosen to represent DC Royale is found to be representing the title in a demeaning or inappropriate manner or fails to represent the title during the required appearances, the ICWDC Board of Directors will notify the winner that the title is being removed and the winner is no longer eligible to receive the second payment of the award money. Additionally, within seven (7) days of being informed that the title has been removed, the winner will return the crown and sash to the Director of the DC Royale pageant.
- 29) The winner must return the DC Royale crown and sash upon the request of the ICWDC Board of Directors. The crown and sash will be returned in the same condition it was provided, less normal wear and tear. Should the crown or sash be damaged or destroyed at any time during the winners' reign, the winner is responsible for the full replacement cost of the crown and/or sash.
- 30) If the title is removed from the winner of the DC Royale Pageant, the ICWDC Board of Directors may bestow the title, crown, sash, and remaining winnings to the First Runner-up.
- 31) **Unless otherwise approved in writing by the ICWDC Board of Directors, DC Royale titleholders may not run for or hold another crown or title when competing for the DC Royale title or during their reign as DC Royale.**
- 32) At no time can the DC Royale crown or sash be worn with any other crown or sash.
- 33) All disagreements, misunderstandings, or arbitration shall rest solely with the ICWDC Board of Directors.

Pageant Category Explanations

The DC Royale pageant consists of four (4) judged categories of equal weight: Self- Expression, Talent, Evening Gown/Formal Wear and On-Stage Question. Each category will have five (5) judges that have been selected for their expertise and you may receive a maximum of 100 points from each judge for each category. Olympic-style scoring is used in the DC Royale Pageant. That is, the highest score and the lowest score for each category will be thrown out. Only the remaining three (3) scores for that category will be counted for each contestant. Highest possible score: 1,200.

If a tie exists, the scores from the Self-Expression category will be used to break the tie. If a tie still exists, then the scores from the Talent category will be used and if a tie still exists, then scores from the Evening Gown/Formal Wear category will be used.

Self-Expression (Red, White, & Blue)

This category is to show the contestant's creativity and interpretation of the expression chosen by the contestant. The contestant's interpretation can consist of costume and presentation. **All props used for your interpretation must be carried on and off stage by the contestant.** Anything that goes out on stage with the contestant must come back with the contestant. Please note that this is **not** a talent category. You may **NOT** use any fire, liquid or pyrotechnics in presenting your selection.

For this category, the judges may look for the following:

- Does the interpretation have originality?
- Is the interpretation clever?
- Does the speech explain why this interpretation was chosen?
- Do the props used enhance the interpretation (if used)?
- Is the costume appropriate for the interpretation?
- Is the costume in good condition?
- Is the contestant able to handle the costume?
- Are foundations or pads showing?

20__ Self-Expression Category is: Red, White, & Blue

This category is to show the contestant's ability to take the category to the next level and show their creative side. **NO costumes or large headdresses are permitted. We ask you to create a runway fashion look consisting only of the colors Black & White.** You are encouraged to do anything of your choosing in reference to the selected Presentation category. The judges will be looking for your creativity, appearance, poise, and ability to present yourself in a professional manner and the style that you have chosen. How is the overall look of your creation? This is your chance to WOW the judges and the audience alike. You may NOT use any fire, liquid or pyrotechnics in presenting your selection. You are permitted to use props for your selection, but they MUST be brought on the stage, carried during the entire presentation, and removed by you. If you fail to follow this rule, you WILL receive a zero (0) for the category. Remember the judges will look to see, if your pads are showing, are you tucked properly? Etc.

The time limit for this category is two (2) minutes.

Talent

Contestants will be judged on their quality of lip-sync, live vocals or other entertainment. Judges will be looking to see if the contestant knows the words to their song. If the contestant is lip-syncing, they should look like they are actually singing the song. Is it believable? If it is a live performance, is the talent of good quality? If there is choreography, the dancers should know the steps and the steps should flow. The dancers or actors should

not upstage you. Do not attempt to do something that is beyond your talent. The contestant is responsible for their performance. If a member of the contestants' troop does not know his/her part, points will be deducted from the contestants' score. Quality of set design and construction, if used, will be judged. Quantity of the set is not judged. It is not a requirement to have a set. Do not put something on the stage if it is not going to be used or have any relation to the talent. Contestants are responsible for their set. Points will be deducted if it falls apart or collapses on stage (and is not part of the talent). Costuming and set design should reflect the mood being established. The presentation should be examined for entertainment value. Does it please, cause laughter, sadness or stir some other emotion? **Talent presentations are limited to six (6) minutes.** A score of zero (0) will be given for any talent going over the time limit.

You are allowed two (2) minutes for setup and two (2) minutes for the take down of your Talent presentation set. Any props used during the Talent presentation or debris must be removed from the stage. If this setup and/or takedown time is not used, it cannot be added to your Talent time allotment.

Each contestant is allowed up to four (4) visible backups for the Talent category. The same four (4) people must be used throughout the presentation. You cannot start the presentation with four people and then during the course of the number replace them with 1-4 different people. Assistants that are hidden during the Talent presentation do not count towards your 4-person limit unless any part of their body is visible during the talent presentation. Once a body part becomes visible, then that person is counted as a visible backup. Your back-up may have access to the dressing room 1 contestant prior to your slot.

Any type of Talent presentation is acceptable with the following exceptions: no Talent presentation will cause harm to, or damage the facility or patrons in any way. No explosive devices, fire in any shape or form, smoke, strobe lighting, or animals (live or dead) can be used at any time.

Any contestant that goes over the allotted time for each category will have their music immediately ended by the Sound Crew and asked to leave the stage. It is the contestant's responsibility to ensure that their presentations are within the specified time limits. Because of the number of contestants competing, no exceptions will be made to these time limits. Failure to abide by the time restrictions or to leave the stage in an acceptable form for the next contestant will result in a score of zero (0) for that category.

For this category, the judges may look for the following:

- Does the talent entertain?
- Does the talent hold the audience's attention?

- Does the talent connect with the audience?
- Is the talent well staged?
- Does the contestant mime (lip-sync) well?
- Does the contestant know their words?
- Was any dancing executed well?
- Is the contestant the primary focus of the talent or did the set, props or backups detract from the contestant?
- Did the costume enhance the talent or detract from the talent?
- Is the costume in good condition?
- Is the contestant able to handle the costume?
- Are foundations or pads showing?

The contestant must turn in their talent choice at the time of application for the pageant and their music must be turned in by the specified deadline (**the first Sunday in November, via email**). No tipping is allowed during this category. Please see the “Rules and Regulations” for the specific rules governing this category.

****Additional Award Potential****

During the Talent Category, we do a People’s Choice Award / ‘Fan Favorite’. Tip Buckets are passed around throughout the audience during contestants’ performances. After each contestant’s talent is completed, the tips for that contestant are counted individually. At the end of the talent category, the contestant with the most tips wins the “Fan Favorite Award” presented at crowning! So, bring as many people as you can with you to support you as you vie for the crown!

Formal Evening Wear (Miss / Mx.)

Evening gown will be the most elegant outfit you wear during the pageant (i.e. full length not a cocktail dress). It should complement your figure and make a statement of your personal style and taste. The dress accessories should be in perfect condition. No strings should be anywhere on the dress unless the style warrants it. There should be no tears in any part of the fabric and the gown should be stain and wrinkle free. It is your responsibility to take care of the gown and keep it in perfect condition during the pageant.

Styling and Fit – focus is on gown design and condition and whether it complements the Contestant.

Presentation – focus is on the Contestant’s modeling technique, poise, smile, personality, stage presence, etc.

Overall Appearance – focus is on accessories, make-up, hair style, etc. This sub-category will represent the most elegant portion of the pageant.

Formal Evening Wear (Mr. / Mx.)

Formal wear should be the most distinguished outfit you wear during the pageant (i.e. black tie, tails, regular or modern tuxedo, **no black jeans**). It should complement you and make a statement of your personal style and taste. No strings should be anywhere on the formal attire. There should be no tears in any part of the fabric and the garment should be stain and wrinkle free. It is your responsibility to take care of your formal wear and keep it in perfect condition during the pageant.

Styling and Fit – focus is on the design and condition and whether it complements the Contestant

Presentation – focus is on the Contestant’s modeling technique, poise, smile, personality, stage presence, etc.

Overall Appearance – focus is on accessories, hair style, etc. This sub-category will represent the most elegant portion of the pageant.

On Stage Question

Scoring will be based on personality, the ability to communicate on a microphone in front of an audience and the context of the answer in relation to the topic given. The contestants will be in their Formal **Evening** Wear.

*** Important Dates to Remember ***

In order to have a successful and fair competition, several dates must be adhered to. Failure to abide by these dates will provide cause for your removal from the competition.

Third Sunday in October @ 5pm	· Deadline for submitting application and entry fee (\$30) for consideration in the pageant. *
First Sunday in November @ 5pm	· Deadline for submitting music selection via email to pageant coordinators
Third Sunday in November @ 5pm and 8pm	· Required meeting for all contestants, 5pm @ Freddie’s Beach Bar · DC Royale Pageant at Freddie’s Beach Bar · All contestants must be at the bar no later than 5pm and sign in with the Contestant Coordinator to compete.

* Cash, Check, Venmo or PayPal are accepted for your registration fee *

Contestant Application

All applications must be typed or printed legibly with a pen.

Competing for (check one): Mr. ___ Miss ___ **Mx.** ___

Contestant Legal Name: _____

Contestant Stage Name: _____

Birthdate: _____

Address: _____ Apt #: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Current titles that you hold. Please refer to the Contest Rules and Regulations on why it is important that you provide us with this information. _____

Do you plan to compete for any other titles during your reign year? _____

(BOARD APPROVAL IS REQUIRED)

Are there any physical disabilities, handicaps, or any other information we should be aware of in order to assist you in this contest? If so, please explain. _____

I understand that this is a fundraising title and that I am required to put on and attend benefits for the Imperial Court of Washington, DC. I also understand that all tips collected while performing at ICWDC shows are to be donated back to the Court. _____ (Initial)

For Board Use Only

ID Checked: _____ Application Fee Paid: _____ (method: _____)

Board Member Initials: _____ Date Received: _____

Contestant Release Form

I, _____, a contestant in the DC Royale Pageant, do hereby hold harmless and waive all rights to any claim or lawsuit against: The ICWDC, or its agents, distributors and/or assigns, or the DC Royale Pageant (the "Pageant") and its representatives (together the "Releases") arising out of or related to the Pageant and/or my participation in the Pageant to the extent permitted by law. I also grant the "Releases" the right to videotape, photograph, sound record, film or otherwise use my name, likeness, image or voice in any television program, documentary or other film, or the internet or in any media now known or hereafter known or any advertising or promotion thereof in connection with or relating to the Pageant. I understand I have no right to and shall not receive any monetary payment for any photograph or recording (audio or video) in which I may appear in connection with or relating to the Pageant. Ownership of all above is the sole possession of the ICWDC.

I enter all activities during the course of the Pageant at my own risk and expense. I also agree to hold harmless from liability, the Promoter, employees and affiliates of any official site/locations of the Pageant.

I agree that my appearance and performance in the Pageant and all related activities shall constitute a work for hire. In the event such is not deemed a work for hire, I hereby assign, transfer and convey any and all interest in any copyright I may own, or have a right to, relating to my appearance and performance in the Pageant and its related activities. I further agree that, should I be selected the winner, any of my actions, whether in word, action or deed which are deemed as demeaning to the crown (as determined by the Promoters of DC Royale Pageant) or the Pageant during my year as DC Royale are sufficient grounds for immediate and complete revocation of the title of DC Royale, the crown, all prize monies (undisbursed or disbursed,) and all performance fees received as DC Royale. I agree to honor the ruling of the Promoters of DC Royale pageant as the final deciding authority.

By entering the Pageant, I agree, should I be selected as DC Royale, I will be obligated to conform to the standards of acceptance (to be determined by the ICWDC) for personal bookings whether it be to perform, entertain, emcee, or otherwise appear at any show, pageant, benefit, function, parade, or gathering. Failure to comply with these rules will be cause for immediate forfeiture of the crown, title of DC Royale and all prize money awarded (disbursed or undisbursed) as the official DC Royale.

Furthermore, DC Royale agrees to appear at the next DC Royale Pageant, without compensation, other than the remainder of the prize package due to DC Royale. I understand that I will be responsible for the prompt payment of any/all other expenses at

the time they are incurred.

This agreement may be assigned by The ICWDC and/or the Pageant to any third party.

Stage name: _____

Given name: _____

Signature/Date: _____

(To be signed at the time of registration):

ICWDC Signature/Date _____

Contestant Bio

(MAY be read during Formal Evening Wear)

Contestant Name: _____

Contestant Number: _____ Horoscope Sign: _____

Are you married or single? _____ If married how long? _____

My Favorite Hobbies are: _____

My most embarrassing moment: _____

My best advice to any performer: _____

If I could change one thing about the LGBTQIA community, it would be: _____

People would use this word to best describe me: _____

My goals in life are: _____

My biggest pet peeve is: _____

What is the most important issue for the LGBTQIA community? _____

What is your most respected charity that raises money for the DC LGBTQIA community and why? _____

Self-Expression Category Selection

Contestant Name	
Expression chosen	
Special instructions (Use additional paper if necessary)	

Talent Category Selection

Contestant Name	
Music (artist and title) to be used (If Any)	
Names of backups (if any)	
Special instructions (Use additional paper if necessary)	

Formal Evening Wear Description

Contestant Name: _____

Description of **Formal** Evening Wear to be read during modeling, to include: designer, style, color, embellishments, make-up artist, hair stylist, accessories designer, **and why**.

(Please Print or Type Legibly)