

# the rules

1. If any contestant is making a living from performing, they are ineligible to enter CMDA.
2. Any previous 'Overall Winner' of CMDA must stand down for 3 years unless they are eligible for a different age group.
3. Entrants to perform one number in the auditions and those reaching the finals to perform the same item
4. All contestants may appear only once in each section.
5. All contestants who require a band must use backing band provided. (Rhythm setter available). No other amplified musicians permitted. You may replace one member of backing band e.g., keys or guitar
6. No pre-recorded backing permitted in any section
7. Acts in all sections must not exceed 4 minutes, this is the time for each contestant to introduce their entry and sing their song – failure to comply with time limit will result in being penalized
8. Judging will be by a panel of judges who have the right to recall any contestant
9. Judging will be on vocal, musical ability, presentation, and entertainment value.
10. Contestants are requested not to discuss judging procedures with judges during awards. Anyone found doing so will be disqualified.
11. Age is at the first day of competition of the current event year.
12. Novice Vocal Solo is open to competitors that have never been placed first in any recognised Talent Quest/Competition as a soloist. Entrants can only enter the "Novice Vocal Solo" or the "Vocal Solo" in their age group, not both. The Novice Vocal Solo will be judged outright but the winner will be added to the finalists of the Vocal Solo in their age group and therefore will be eligible for the overall title.
13. Tiny Tots class is open to all children under 8 years of age. Tiny tots are not eligible to enter Junior Vocal Solo. This class does not qualify for any overall title.
14. Forty Plus section is for contestants that are 40 years and over. Entrants can only enter Senior or Forty Plus not both.
15. Gospel sections are open to any gospel, spiritual or hymn type of songs
16. If a class is judged outright the winner of that section must be available to perform at the Finals Show
17. Vintage Country to be a song performed that was originally written prior to 1970. Must be of country origin. This class does not qualify for any overall title.
18. Three clearly marked chord charts to be provided for each section
19. Contestants to report to the official table on arrival, also to report to music table 30 minutes prior to commencement of their section with chord charts. Failure to do so may result in disqualification
20. Entry fees: Tiny Tots, \$15.00 per section, Junior & Intermediate, Seniors, Open & Forty Plus + \$20.00 per section. Entries close 5 pm on the **10th of March** in the current event year. Entries may be capped due to time restraints. No late entries will be accepted.
21. Duets: No duets in any age group are eligible to enter solo sections: Vocal Solo; Country Rock; Gospel; Vintage Country; Novice or Singer/Songwriter sections. Duet individual names must be stated at time of entry and cannot be changed once registration is closed. Juniors may only go up one age group to sing with Intermediate. Intermediate may only go up one age group to sing in Senior Section, Senior may go up to sing in Forty Plus duet section. This section is not eligible for any overall award.
22. Open Vocal Group: Open to any age. Vocal group is comprised of 3 to 4 vocalists. All group individual names must be stated at time of entry and cannot be changed once registrations close. Other than a performer/s on guitar, vocalists must not play any other instrument in this section and must use the backing band provided No vocal groups are eligible to enter solo sections: Solo, Country Rock, Gospel, Vintage Country, Novice, or Singer/Songwriter sections. This section is not eligible for any overall award.
23. Singer/Songwriter: Open to solo performers of any age (not duet or group). Original song lyrics and melody must have been written / co-written by the performer. Please note that 3 copies of song lyrics **MUST** be handed into the registration desk at commencement of CMDA awards in the current year, alternatively they can be emailed to [cmdawardsnz@gmail.com](mailto:cmdawardsnz@gmail.com) prior to the awards. This section will be judged equally on song lyrics, melodic composition and structure and performance on the day. This section is not eligible for any overall award.
24. Persons found using drugs or alcohol or guilty of offensive behaviour may be disqualified.
25. Audition times will be drawn by ballot. Contestants will not be advised individually of their times; a schedule of class start times will be put up on the CMDA Website and CMDA Facebook page.
26. Contestant's equipment is used and stored at their own risk. The CMDA Committee will not be held responsible for loss, damage, or theft of personal effects and or property.
27. All trophies remain the property of CMDA. Trophies to be engraved at the winner's expense. All trophies to be returned no later than **1 March** of current event year. Any competitor not returning trophies will forfeit the right to take any future trophies home. Replacement costs will be sought.
28. CMDA Committee reserves the right to add or delete from the programme at any time. CMDA Committee have the unconditional right to use at their discretion photographic material of you in any form of media art, advertising, trade, visual documentary, promotional material, merchandise, or film coverage without any compensation to you or approval by you.
29. Any violation of the above rules may result in an instant disqualification.
30. No refund will be issued on finals show tickets purchased – it is the responsibility of the purchaser to on sell.