

**The National Sweetheart Pageant**  
**General Rules & Regulations for Contestants**

1. All pageant rules are enforced from the time the contestants arrive at the airport until her departure, unless otherwise stated. Violation may, in the absolute discretion of the executive director, result in the disqualification of the contestant and in the forfeiture of local prizes and awards won by her.
2. No contestant shall smoke or drink alcohol in public during pageant week. "In public" shall mean any place where a contestant might be viewed by persons other than official pageant personnel.
3. No contestant shall speak to any person, male or female, including members of her own family, unless a chaperone is present during pageant weeks scheduled events.
4. No contestant member, friend of her family, or local pageant staff representatives, shall knowingly at any time prior to or during pageant week, communicate or associate with any pageant judges, except at a regularly scheduled pageant function.
5. No contestant shall travel anywhere during pageant week, except in official pageant transportation, without the prior permission of the executive director of the pageant.
6. No contestant shall accept any telephone calls from any persons not known to her in advance. Chaperone and/or housing shall screen all incoming calls, and shall immediately discontinue any telephone conversation which causes distress to a contestant. All telephone calls; incoming and outgoing, shall cease between the hours of midnight and 7:30 AM. No long distance calls may be made except by credit card or reverse charges from the host home.
7. Interviews and photographs may be permitted at any time which does not conflict with a contestant's working schedule. A chaperone must be present during any such session.
8. Contestants are required to participate in all pageant events throughout the entire week to be eligible for competition.

9. No contestants may take anything of an alcoholic nature to drink at any time during pageant week.
10. The use of any narcotic drugs or dangerous or controlled substances is forbidden.
11. Contestant's clothing must be in good taste at all times.
12. In case of illness, your housing will take you to a doctor. It will be your responsibility to make arrangements for payment while you are at the doctor. In the case of being taken to the hospital, you will be responsible for any ambulance bills, hospital bills, doctor bills, prescriptions, and any other medical related expenses. The Hoopston Jaycees, the National Sweetcorn Festival, and the National Sweetheart Pageant are not responsible for any bills incurred by the contestant.
13. We do not provide beauticians, make-up artists, or dry cleaning services.
14. No cameras, camera phones, iPads/tablets will be allowed behind the stage or in the dressing room area. If found it will be removed and returned to you at the end of the week.
15. Contestant/parent visitation is limited and at the discretion of the pageant staff. Contestants are instructed to immediately return with their designated chaperone to housing following pageant competition.
16. All registration fees are **non-refundable**. If we have less than 15 applicants, the Hoopston Jaycees have the right to cancel the event. In that case, refunds will be processed.
17. Contestants must be in good health and moral character.
18. You must be a resident of your state for at least 6 months and a U.S. citizen.
19. You must be 19 years old (by 08-01-16) or 26 years old (under 27 by 09-05-16).
20. A female; born and has always been a female.
21. No contestants shall ever have been married.

22. No contestants shall be pregnant or have ever been an adoptive or foster parent.
23. All appearances representing the National Sweetheart Pageant must be pre-approved by the National Sweetheart Pageant Executive Directors.
24. I understand that if the National Sweetheart Pageant does not have more than 15 applicants, they reserve the right to cancel the pageant.
25. No more than one contestant will represent each state at the National Sweetheart Pageant. In the event there are multiple applicants from one state, I understand that the National Sweetheart Pageant Selection Committee will make the determination which applicant will compete.
26. No criminal history or felonies.
27. Contestant understands that all family and friends are not allowed in to their host home unless invited by the host family.

**The pageant, through the executive director, reserves the right to alter or waive one or more general or specific rules in exceptional situations.**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MIDNIGHT JULY 1, 2016**