

# MISS AMERICA ORGANIZATION

## STATE-LOCAL TIE BREAKING PROCEDURES

Below is a simple guide on how to break a tie within a pageant. Merely look for the type of pageant you are directing, auditing or judging, then find the category of the tie you need to split. Below that category heading will be a progressive list of the phases of competition used to split the tie. You look at the first tie breaking phase and, if one of the contestants has a higher score in that phase, she receives the higher placement. If a tie still exists, you move to the second tie breaking phase listed. If a tie exists in all phases of competition, the names of the contestants which are tied are written on pieces of paper for each of the judges. The slip of paper should have a heading which describes the tie (i.e.: tie for Talent or tie for the Top Five) and each judge should circle his/her choice for the placement.

### **Ties for Preliminary Awards on the Preliminary Night of a Multi-Night Pageant, a Single Night State Pageant, or a Local Pageant\*\***

- This is a tie for an award for the contestant scoring the highest total number of points in a specific phase of competition (Talent, Lifestyle and Fitness in Swimwear, etc.)
- **Head-to-Head Competition – Prepare a slip a paper for each judge with the names of the contestants who are tied for the award. Please make sure the slips of paper are clearly identified as to phase in which the tie exists). Ask each judge to circle his/her choice for the winner of the award.**
- If there is an even number of judges and a tie still exists, both winners should be announced or no winner should be announced.\*\*
- Do NOT use any other phase of competition to split a tie within another area of competition.

\*\* Neither State nor Local Pageants are required to announce such winners, nor are they required to split ties for these awards. However, if due to a lack of funding the pageant organization needs to split any scholarship monies associated with these awards, it should be announced from stage that the scholarship money will be split among the tied winners as to avoid confusion following the pageant. If a Multi-Night State Pageant wishes to announce “overall” awards on the final night of competition, it may wish to consider announcing these awards based upon preliminary competitions. This is because sometimes the contestant receiving the highest overall score in an individual competition may not be among the finalists announced on the final night. If the pageant chooses to do this, it must be announced that these awards are based on preliminary night competitions.

### **Ties Into or Within the Top Five of a Local Pageant or a Single Night State Pageant**

- Talent – The contestant with the highest Talent points receives the higher placement. If a tie still exists, refer to the points of the tied contestants in this progressive order:
- Private Interview
- Evening Wear
- Lifestyle and Fitness in Swimsuit
- On-Stage Question
- Head-to-Head Competition (Use the process bolded in the Preliminary Award Tie Breaking Procedure)

### **Ties Into the Top Ten of a Multi-Night State Pageant**

- Talent – The contestant with the highest Talent points receives the higher placement. If a tie still exists, refer to the points of the tied contestants in this progressive order:
- Private Interview
- Evening Wear
- Lifestyle and Fitness in Swimsuit
- On-Stage Question
- Head-to-Head Competition (Use the process bolded in the Preliminary Award Tie Breaking Procedure)

### **Ties Into the Top Five on the Final Night of a Multi-Night State Pageant**

- Composite Attribute Score – The contestant with the highest Composite Score receives the higher placement. If a tie still exists, refer to the points of the tied contestants in this progressive order:
- Talent
- Evening Wear
- Lifestyle and Fitness in Swimsuit
- Head-to-Head Competition (Use the process bolded in the Preliminary Award Tie Breaking Procedure)

### **Ties Within the Top Five on the Final Night of a Multi-Night State Pageant**

- Highest Points going into the Top Five Competition – Even though the points received from the Composite Score and the Final Night On-Stage competitions are discarded after the Top Five contestants are announced, if a tie exists within the Top Five, the tied contestant with the highest point total from the Saturday Night On-Stage scores (including Composite) receives the higher placement. If a tie still exists, refer to the points of the tied contestants in this progressive order:
- Composite Attributes
- Talent
- Evening Wear
- Lifestyle and Fitness in Swimsuit
- Head-to-Head Competition (Use the process bolded in the Preliminary Award Tie Breaking Procedure)

### **DO NOT DESTROY SCORE SHEETS OR TALLY SHEETS**

IMMEDIATELY at the conclusion of your pageant, the auditors should place all score sheets and the tally sheet(s) in a sealed, dated, and identified envelope for safe keeping at a predetermined location established by the STATE Board for a minimum of one year. Auditors and/or pageant officials may not disclose to anyone any actual scores, whether total or individual scores, unless such time arises in which the outcome of the pageant is in dispute and an independent auditor has to review the results.