

# **Addendum to MRI Rule Book: Qualifications and Standards of Conduct**

**Revised April 15, 2009**

**Preamble:** Miss Rodeo Idaho, Inc. is a private non-profit corporation providing vision and leadership to Miss Rodeo Idaho, enabling her to represent the state of Idaho and enhance the sport of rodeo and promote our western heritage. MRI, Inc. hereby declares and establishes the following minimum “Qualifications and Standards of Conduct” that shall be applicable to all title-and sub-title holders under contract to MRI, Inc. and all approved contestants competing for the title of Miss Rodeo Idaho. Establishment of this statement of “Qualifications and Standards of Conduct” by MRI, Inc. does not nullify, cancel, or preclude existing and additional MRI, Inc. rules, expectations or practices now or in the future. MRI, Inc. reserves the right to amend its rules and operational guidelines by action of the Board of Directors.

Qualification and Standards are listed alphabetically, not in order of priority or importance.

## **1. Adherence to Law:**

Shall abide by the laws of the jurisdiction(s) she is in. Shall never have been convicted of a felony crime (or equivalent, while a juvenile.) Shall not have pending criminal charges (other than minor traffic violations, with the exception of DUI, Aggravated DUI, and Reckless Driving) or have adjudicated criminal sentences pending against her. Shall disclose to the Board her criminal history and pending sentences other than minor traffic violations. Shall have and maintain a valid operator’s license.

## **2. Adherence to Rules:**

Shall abide by all rules and regulations of MRI, Inc. including: MRI Rule Book and attachments, pageant contestant rules, general rules, written expectations, official communications and documents, and verbal direction from competent authority (National Director, Judges, and Board of Directors.) Concerns shall respectfully be brought to the attention of the involved Director, the National Director, Pageant Official or the President in a timely manner.

## **3. Age:**

Shall be at least eighteen (18) years old prior to the start of the first pageant day, and not more than twenty-four (24) years old by January 1 of the year of reign. Shall supply MRI, Inc. with one official copy of her Certificate of Birth.

## **4. Agreements:**

Shall have executed and presented all required documents, consents, waivers, contracts and/or agreements presented as conditions or precedents to pageant competition, title, or contracted party prior to the receipt of prizes, awards, scholarships, monies, or participation in approved activities.

## **5. Civil Actions:**

Shall not be a principal (initiating) party in any civil action without prior written notification of the Board of Directors. The Board reserves the right to disqualify her for title or contract position in cases where the initiation or furtherance of a civil action is contrary to the stated

purposes of MRI, Inc., or prejudicial to the positive image and effective representation of MRI, Inc., Miss Rodeo Idaho, or involves a significant conflict of interest. Shall disclose in writing to MRI, Inc. and pending civil judgments imposed against her.

**6. Contracts/Agreements/Encumbrances:**

Shall not enter into any contract, agreement, purchase, or promise to pay that encumbers MRI, Inc., funds, personnel, resources, or commits MRI, Inc. as a responsible entity, without prior written permission of MRI, Inc., the Board of Directors, or the National Director.

**7. Disqualification:**

Shall not have been disqualified in current pageant competition nor have forfeited the Miss Rodeo Idaho title.

**8. Finances:**

- Shall account for all approved expenses with receipts in a timely manner and document automobile mileage, completing required forms for reimbursement from MRI, Inc. Reasonable expenses stemming from approved, scheduled activities will be considered by the Board of Directors for reimbursement.
- Shall not purchase or charge items to MRI, Inc. that have not been approved by the National Director or the Board of Directors. Shall pay all personal debts.
- Approved MRI expenses are normally reimbursed after-the-fact, pending approval of submitted receipts. Expenses incurred should be in the most economical manner possible. Donation and sponsorships are preferred over discounts or outright purchases; cost comparisons to insure that the greatest value is received for each expenditure of MRI, Inc. funds is required.

**9. Gender:**

Shall be female as established by the gender at birth as shown on an official copy of her Certificate of Birth. Shall supply MRI, Inc. with one official copy of her Certificate of Birth.

**10. Horse:**

- Shall maintain at her own expense (or arrange access to) one or more healthy, sound horse(s) suitable for queen responsibilities, including parades, rodeo buzz-ins, working cattle in the arena, carrying flags, and promotional rides or activities.
- Any horse ridden in an official capacity (except stock contractor horses or horses borrowed to ride at an event where MRI has not brought her own) shall be appointed in accordance with accepted western styles and equipment. The horse shall be groomed, clean, with hooves properly trimmed and/or shod. Obvious injuries or lameness shall be treated before being ridden.
- The MRI prize saddle shall be ridden as often as possible during official appearances.
- She shall insure that food and water are made available for her horse and shall not abuse it any way, necessary discipline, schooling, and correction excepted, but recommended outside the public view, if possible.)
- MRI, Inc. assumes no liability for person injury or property damage as result of MRI appearances and activities.

### **11. Insurance:**

- Shall maintain a personal property floater (rider) on homeowner's or renter's policy in the amount of \$1,000 to cover the traveling Idaho crown, listing MRI, Inc. as "insured," providing verification to MRI, Inc. within two weeks of the beginning of her reign.
- Shall maintain comprehensive and liability insurance on the MRI prize trailer and insure it is currently licensed.
- Shall maintain personal health insurance and automobile liability insurance.

### **12. Marital Status:**

- Shall not have ever been married. ("Married" includes "common law" marriage if a legal status in states/countries in which she has lived. Idaho does not recognize common law marriage.)
- Shall not cohabit or live as part of a domestic partnership living arrangement or share living facilities with any person in a romantic relationship, or with a member of the opposite sex outside the degrees of consanguinity as established by law. Normal college dormitory/sorority living arrangements are specifically excepted from this rule.

### **13. Meetings and Board Business:**

Shall submit queen activity reports to the National Director for regular meeting of the Board of Directors and attend scheduled portions meetings least one time each calendar quarter as well as special meetings, as requested. Shall exercise and maintain confidentiality in respect to all Board issues, discussions, decisions, and other business of the Board of Directors. Shall not be publicly critical in word or action of the Board of Directors, singly or as a group.

### **14. Miss Rodeo America Participation:**

- Miss Rodeo Idaho: Shall not have been a prior contestant in any Miss Rodeo America Pageant. MRI shall be expected to conscientiously prepare for and compete in the MRA Pageant in the year of her reign. Approved MRI expenses will be covered or reimbursed by MRI, Inc.
- Miss Rodeo Idaho-Elect: MRI-Elect shall attend all public activities at the MRA Pageant in the year prior to the year of her reign. MRI, Inc. will assist in covering some of MRI-Elect's expenses. MRI-Elect's personal appearance and demeanor at MRA shall be as if she was representing MRI, Inc. at a formal, scheduled event (with the exceptions that she will not wear the MRI crown, buckle, sash, or represent herself as the reigning Miss Rodeo Idaho.)

### **15. Personal Appearance:**

Travel by Air or Public Conveyance: While traveling to/from and participating in scheduled appearances or activities, shall be well dressed in appropriate queen attire, including crown, buckle, and banner. On trip lasting one day or less, clothing shall be appropriate for the event.  
Travel by Automobile: Attire while driving to events may be casual, but presentable in public. When arriving at an appearance location shall be well dressed in appropriate queen attire, including crown, buckle, and banner.

### **Examples of Appropriate Attire:**

1. Shall maintain a wardrobe sufficient to fulfill appearance and activity requirements.
2. No faded jeans, shirts, or hats – It is best to have your jeans/shirts dry-cleaned and heavy starched. Always make sure your hat is clean and shaped, in a popular and flattering style.

3. Boots, tack, luggage, and other equipment must be clean, polished and in good repair.
4. Idaho crown, buckle, and jewelry are always clean and polished. Keep the banners and chaps in excellent condition and clean, also.
5. Hair and makeup shall be tasteful and complete in appearance.

**6. When out of state you must always wear your MRI Banner (In the state of Idaho you may replace your banner with the stitching of the MRI logo.)**

**16. Personal Conduct/Wholesome Image:**

- Miss Rodeo Idaho is a highly visible icon, a role model who represents and is often synonymous with the sport of rodeo, the people of the state of Idaho, MRI, Inc., the Board of Directors, local rodeo and queen committees, her hometown, family, and her own personal character.
- *Acceptance of the MRI title (including other MRI, Inc. contract positions) presupposes her voluntary relinquishment of a certain amount of freedom in personal choices and activities while competing for or holding this position of public scrutiny and responsibility.* MRI, Inc. expects her personal conduct during official appearances and in her private life to exemplify the highest standards of morality, integrity, honesty, fairness, sincere concern, public service, poise, tact, and the traditional, family-oriented western lifestyle she represents. She shall conduct herself at all time to reflect most favorably on herself, her title, MRI, Inc., and the state of Idaho.
- She shall not use tobacco products or drink alcoholic beverages illegally, or in public while identifiable as MRI, and MRI, Inc. contractee, or pageant contestant. She shall not become publicly intoxicated or associate notoriously with any person(s) in a manner that brings disrepute on her title, MRI, Inc., or the Board of Directors. She shall not attend frequent places of questionable repute or moral turpitude, nor allow herself, her name, photographs, or her title to knowingly be used to represent them.
- Integral to the success of her title is her wholesome image as the “Ambassador of Rodeo.” Although she may be engaged to be married, she shall not wear an engagement ring on the hand or visible on exterior clothing during approved MRI appearances, activities, or when identifiable as MRI. If questions about correct behavior or appropriateness arise, she shall discuss them in a timely manner with the National Director whose direction will be final.

**17. Political Activity/Endorsements:**

Shall not endorse or use her title to represent a political candidate, political party, or partisan cause. Shall not run for public, elective office without prior approval of MRI, Inc. She may participate in public causes deemed by the Board of Directors to be consistent with her title, the purposes of MRI, Inc., or that support legitimate aspects of rodeo or the traditional western lifestyle. May assist in advertising for recognized and approved commercial sponsors of MRI, Inc., or other as directed by MRI, Inc.

**18. Pregnancy:**

Shall not have ever been pregnant or borne a child out of wedlock nor become pregnant during the term of the contract or competition.

### **19. Representative or Agent:**

Although every effort will be made by the National Director and MRI, Inc. to communicate completely and effectively with immediate family members about issues of mutual concern, the Board only recognizes its commitment and contractual agreement with the titleholder (or MRI, Inc. contractee) herself. The Board and the National Director shall not deal with an agent or personal representative. MRI (and MRI, Inc. contractees) shall maintain herself approachable and available to the Board of Directors and the National Director.

### **20. Residency:**

Shall maintain her primary residence in the state of Idaho. An exception shall be made for a student currently enrolled in post-secondary education in another state/country as long as her permanent home address is in Idaho. NOTE: MRI who is a student temporarily residing out-of-state must demonstrate her ability to fulfill all MRI activities and commitments successfully if actual residency will not be re-established in Idaho. The Board of Directors will review and rule on such situations.

### **21. Scheduling/National Director's Position:**

- MRI shall be assigned to the Idaho National Director for guidance and direction of her official activities, image, and as her direct liaison to the Board of Directors.
- All requests for appearances shall be referred to the National Director who will negotiate arrangements, scheduling, travel itinerary, accommodations, expenses, payment, promotional activities, and representation issues. Proposals or requests for activities and appearances may be submitted to the National Director by MRI, outside sources, or any Board member.
- The National Director may assign some coordination and scheduling responsibilities to others.
- MRI shall inform the National Director of her personal scheduling needs, her current location, and contact information throughout the term of her reign.
- MRI-Elect and MRI first Runner-Up commitments shall also be coordinated through the National Director. All needs and questions should be referred to the National Director.
- Every effort will be made by the National Director to schedule activities and appearances well in advance, notifying MRI (including MRI, Inc. contractees) sufficiently in advance to allow for preparation. The National Director shall maintain current monthly and annually calendars, presenting these at each Board Meeting for comment and approval. Appearances or activities scheduled seven (7) days in advance shall be considered mandatory; those with less than seven (7) days advanced notice shall be considered desirable, but discretionary, if scheduling cannot be worked out.
- MRI shall notify the National Director no less than three days in advance if she cannot make a scheduled commitment. The only exception shall be unforeseen emergencies or illness that preclude prior notification. Every reasonable effort will be made to notify responsible parties prior to missing commitments, rescheduling them, if possible.

### **22. Sponsors:**

Shall actively participate in seeking and developing positive rapport with existing sponsors and new potential sponsors for MRI, Inc., coordinating and cooperating with the National Director and Board members engaged in fund-raising. Sponsorships should be considered as potentially renewable annually, instead of only one-time gifts. Personal thank you letters, correspondence, signed photographs, and sponsor appearance shall be part of MRI duties.

**23. Titles: Local, State, National, International:**

Shall not be a reigning or named-elect title holder, nor run as a contestant in any other local, state, national, or international pageant (except Miss Rodeo America) including, but not limited to: Idaho High School Rodeo, Miss Idaho, Miss Teen Rodeo Idaho, Miss Rodeo USA, or MissTeen Idaho during the term of her reign and contract obligations to MRI, Inc.

**24. Trailer:**

In the event a sponsored horse trailer is obtained for the use of MRI during her reign, MRI shall, within five (5) days, complete necessary lease documents in accordance with the Trailer Sponsorship Agreement in effect with the sponsor. MRI shall use the trailer (displaying appropriate sponsorship logos) exclusively and to the maximum extent practical when hauling to MRI functions and activities. The trailer and vehicle towing it shall be kept clean and serviceable. The trailer shall be parked in a position of maximum visibility while attending events and activities. MRI shall maintain a current trailer license and registration, including the trailer on personal automobile liability insurance coverage, and maintain collision insurance coverage sufficient to restore damage to original condition.

**Summary:** Miss Rodeo Idaho (including MRI, Inc. contractees) shall bring problems, questions and the possibility of personal non-compliance with MRI, Inc. rules to the attention of the National Director or the Board of Directors in a timely manner. Equitable problem resolution is much simpler and more likely when addressed openly and early. (In the event of any inconsistency between the above and the signed contracts, the signed contracts shall prevail.)