



The rules for contest dancing at the GATHERING OF NATIONS POW WOW are intended to maintain a fair contest, and allow each dancer the best opportunity to demonstrate his or her best style and ability. Each dancer is assured that there are no surprise points or rules made up on the spot. However all rules are strictly enforced. The Gathering of Nations "Fairness Doctrine can be reviewed on line @ [www.gatheringofnations.com](http://www.gatheringofnations.com) GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP IS MANDATORY!

1. Dancers are expected to participate in all GRAND ENTRIES as points are given. Exceptions may be given to someone who is unable to participate in the Grand Entry, as they are fulfilling duties elsewhere within the other GATHERING OF NATION'S activities.
2. All Dancers are expected to be ready when called to contest.
3. Banners, Crowns and other signs of royalty are not to be worn during the contest. This is to insure that all dancers are judged by ability. Rather than popularity or political favoritism. The wearing of such items during the contest will result in disqualification for that session.  
**NOTE: Appropriate dress for each category is required. Women's Buckskin categories Must be dressed in complete Buckskin Attire. Cloth dresses not allowed. Arena directors will instruct the judges to not vote for the dancer not dressed appropriately.**
4. Stopping on time at the breaks and at the end of the song is expected. However stopping too soon or over stepping will not result in disqualification. Points given will be at the judge's discretion.
5. When a particular category is divided into groups, the dancer is required to compete in the group placed. Dancing in the wrong group will result in no points received for that session and pos. disqualification from total contest. This is an arena directors call.
6. The use of whistles during the contest or at times when notice has been given not to use them will result in disqualification of the dancer for that session. NOTE: Notice to all dancers will be given by the announcers as to when the use of whistles is allowed.
7. The rules for judging the contests require that **NO FAMILY MEMBER**. Through blood marriage or adoption, **SHALL JUDGE THE PARTICULAR CONTEST, WHICH HAS A RELATIVE COMPETING**. If this happens, and is not detected before the start of the contest and is discovered by head judges, arena directors, tabulators, etc.; **THE DANCER WILL BE DISQUALIFIED** that session
8. The dropping of an eagle feather will result in the disqualification of a dancer for that session only. The dropping of other items will not disqualify the dancer.
9. All junior and teen contestants must show proof of age if questioned by POW - WOW officials when suspected of being too old for the category. **THERE IS NO PENALTY FOR COMPETING IN CATEGORIES WHICH THE DANCER IS YOUNGER THAN**. (Example: A 16-year old boy competing in the Men's Fancy is acceptable). The same is true for Golden Age and Elder dancers choosing to challenge younger dancers. They may register and compete in the regular adult categories.
10. **THE DETECTED USE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS DURING THE CONTEST WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION FROM ALL COMPETITION.**
11. **Placement of money, or items from the audience at the feet of a dancer during the contest will result in immediate disqualification of that dancer from that session.**
12. **THERE IS TO BE NO RECORDING OF THE DRUMS. Dancers seen standing around or near drums will be disqualified for that session. DUE TO SECURITY REGULATIONS, DO NOT LEAVE ITEMS UNATTENDED!**

**GOOD LUCK TO ALL DANCERS!**

NOTE: All inquiries as to contest results must be made in writing and within seven (7) days (1 week), of the conclusion of the GATHERING OF NATION POW WOW. please state full name address and dance category and dancer number. Dancer Req. only