

# GATHERING OF NATIONS POW WOW



## CONTEST RULES FOR DANCERS



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 rule changes created on the spot! ALL RULES WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED AND GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP IS MANDATORY! A copy of the *Gathering of Nations "Fairness Doctrine"* can be reviewed On-Line at: [http://www.gatheringofnations.com/powwow/contest\\_fairness\\_doctrine.htm](http://www.gatheringofnations.com/powwow/contest_fairness_doctrine.htm)

1. Dancers are expected to participate in all GRAND ENTRIES as points are given. Exceptions may be given to dancers who are unable to participate in the Grand Entry, as they are fulfilling duties elsewhere within Gathering Nations activities. (Example: Singing with Drum and/or duties asked to perform from Powwow Committee, etc.)
2. All Dancers are expected TO BE READY to compete when their Contest Category is called.
3. Banners, Crowns and other Signs of Royalty are NOT to be worn during the Dance 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 dance contest will result in disqualification for that session only.
4. **Appropriate dress for each Category is required. Arena directors will instruct the judges NOT to vote for the dancer(s) not dressed appropriately for the Category. \* NOTE: Women's Buckskin Categories MUST be dressed in Complete Buckskin Attire. Cloth dresses are not allowed for Buckskin Categories, please register for Cloth Categories only!**
5. Stopping on time at the breaks and the end of the song is expected! However stopping too soon or over stepping WILL NOT result in disqualification. Points will be given at the Dance Judge's discretion.
6. 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 possible disqualification from total contest. This call will be determined by the Arena Director(s).
7. The use of whistles during the contest or when notice has been given not to use them will result in disqualification of the dancer for that session. \* **NOTE: Announcements (Notice) WILL BE given by the Announcers (MCs) to all Dancers as to when the use of WHISTLES IS ALLOWED.**
8. The rules for judging the contests require **NO FAMILY MEMBER(s)** (Includes blood marriage or adoption(s). **SHALL JUDGE THE PARTICULAR CONTEST, WHICH HAS A RELATIVE COMPETING.** If this is discovered by Head Dance Judge(s), Arena Director(s), tabulator(s), etc. before the start of the Contest; **THE DANCER WILL BE DISQUALIFIED** for that session only.
9. The dropping of an Eagle Feather will result in the **disqualification of a dancer for that session only**. The dropping of all other items WILL NOT disqualify a dancer.
10. All Junior and Teen Contestants must show proof of age IF questioned by Powwow Officials, when suspicion of being too old for a category. **THERE IS NO PENALTY FOR COMPETING IN CATEGORIES WHICH THE DANCER IS YOUNGER IN AGE.** (Example: A 16-year old boy competing in the Men's Fancy IS ACCEPTABLE).
11. Rule #10 listed above also applies for Golden Age and Elder dancers choosing to challenge younger dancers. Golden Age and Elders MAY register and compete in any Regular Adult Categories.
12. **THE DETECTED USE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS DURING THE CONTEST WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION FROM ALL COMPETITION.**
13. 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.
14. THERE IS TO BE NO CROWDING OF THE DRUMS FOR AUDIO RECORDING. Dancer(s) seen standing around or near drums will be disqualified for that session DUE TO SECURITY & FIRE REGULATIONS.
15. PLEASE WATCH YOUR PERSONAL PROPERTY AND DO NOT LEAVE YOUR ITEMS UNATTENDED!

**GOOD LUCK TO ALL DANCERS!**

NOTE: All inquiries as to Contest Results must be made in writing and mailed within seven (7) days = (1 week), of the conclusion of the GATHERING OF NATION POW WOW. Please state your Full Name, Address, Dance Category and Registered Dance Number assigned.  
Revised: 12/2009