

NorthDakotaStateFair
presents





Rules and Guidelines

Congratulations on being selected as a finalists by the NDSF Talent Judging Team. We appreciate the time you are taking to come back and perform. All finalists should now prepare to take the biggest stage in North Dakota as the opening Grandstand act on Wednesday, July 22 at the North Dakota State Fair. After all performances, the judging team will immediately select a winner, who will receive a \$2,000 prize.

Only musical talent will be considered. Participants may have an agent; however, they will be disqualified if they have a record deal.

Guidelines: A maximum of five people per band will perform with the equipment the NDSF provides. Equipment includes drums, amps, and microphones. You must bring your own guitars and keyboard if needed. **NO one but band members will be allowed backstage. (Up to 5 band members only.)** All finalists will need to pay their own gate admission. All finalists will receive 10 complimentary tickets per band to the Wednesday night grandstand show.

Singing must be done either acapella or with live accompaniment; backtracks may be used if recorded directly by the musician. **NO KARAOKE TRACKS WILL BE ALLOWED.**

- Competitors may wear the attire of their choice; however, all attire must be appropriate.
- An excellent stage performance is often an advantage to a competitor and they will be judged on this.
- The Final Round of judging the top three finalists will be held on the North Dakota State Fair Grandstand Stage as the opening act on Wednesday, July 22.
- The winner's announcement will occur on the Grandstand Stage before the headlining artist takes the stage. We will ask all three finalists to come on stage for the announcement.
- A \$2,000 check will be handed to the winner.

Final Round of Judging: The three performers, as determined by the North Dakota State Fair Talent Judging Team.

- The final round of judging will be held Wednesday, July 22, at the North Dakota State Fairgrounds as the opening act of the headlining show.
- All competitors must purchase gate admission to the North Dakota State Fair.
- All competitors requiring sound check must be at the Grandstand by 2:00 PM on Wednesday, July 22.
- All competitors must report backstage of the Grandstand for the show by 6:00 PM.
- No one but band members will be allowed backstage. (Maximum of 5 band members.)
- All competitors who are in the final round must provide a W-9 and social security number. The cash award will be made out to the primary contact. The group is responsible for the equitable distribution of the cash award amongst its members.
- Each competitor will get 10 minutes on stage to perform for the final round of judging.
- Judges will individually score each competitor based on performance, crowd engagement, and music selection.

Music Selection and Equipment:

- Competitors may perform a song from the genre of their choice. One song must be a cover, and each must not be longer than 4 minutes. Remember, competitors are being judged on crowd engagement and music



selection.

- Contestants should be prepared to perform acapella in case of technical difficulties.
- Backline will be provided for individuals or groups who wish to use instruments during their performance.
- The show reserved the right to end any performance it deems inappropriate.

Performance: An excellent stage performance will be a part of the judging. However, all performances must be appropriate for a family show. The show reserves the right to cancel the performance of any competitor performing in an excessively suggestive or inappropriate manner.

Judging:

- Judges will be selected to the final round of the competition.
- Judges decisions are final.
- Winners will be announced immediately following the Final Round of Judging, and winners will be recognized on stage.
- Results will be published on the North Dakota State Fair website at ndstatefair.com

Awards: The competition winners will receive \$2,000 to be presented immediately following the judging on Wednesday, July 23.

Contacts:

NDSF Marketing Director
701-857-7620 or ndsf@minot.com

Dean Clott – Owner of DC Entertainment - **Backline Questions Only**
701-240-7148 or dean@dcconcerts.com

**Attached Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement Attached
Application for Competition**



Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement for Hometown Sound Contest Applicants

I. Introduction

This Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into by the undersigned participant ("Participant") of the Hometown Sound Contest ("Contest") organized in connection with the 2026 North Dakota State Fair ("Event"). The final three contestants of the Contest will have the opportunity to perform as the opening act for Sawyer Brown on Wednesday, July 22, 2026. By signing this Agreement, the Participant acknowledges and agrees to the terms and conditions set forth herein.

II. Acknowledgment of Risks

The Participant acknowledges that participation in the Contest and any associated events, including the performance as an opening act, involves inherent risks and dangers, including but not limited to the risk of physical injury, emotional stress, and property damage. The Participant voluntarily assumes all such risks, known and unknown, arising from or related to their participation in the Contest and any associated events.

III. Release of Liability

The Participant, on behalf of themselves, their heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, hereby releases, waives, discharges, and covenants not to sue the North Dakota State Fair, its officers, directors, employees, volunteers, agents, sponsors, and affiliates (collectively, "Released Parties") from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions, and causes of action whatsoever arising out of or related to any loss, damage, injury, or death that may be sustained by the Participant, or any property belonging to the Participant, while participating in the Contest, or while on the premises where the Event is being conducted, under any theory of liability.

IV. Indemnity

The Participant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from any and all liabilities, claims, damages, expenses (including, without limitation, attorneys' fees), and losses arising out of or in any way connected with the Participant's participation in the Contest and/or performance at the Event, including, without limitation, any claims for personal injury, death, or damage to property.

V. Medical Treatment

In the event of a medical emergency, the Participant authorizes and consents to any necessary medical treatment or care deemed advisable by authorized personnel or medical professionals. The Participant agrees to be fully responsible for any and all costs associated with such medical treatment or medical transportation.

VI. Media Release

The Participant grants permission to the North Dakota State Fair and its agents and licensees to use any photographs, video recordings, or any other visual or audio portrayals of the Participant or their performance at the Event, in any medium or context for any purpose, including promotional, advertising, or commercial purposes, without compensation to the Participant.

VII. Governing Law

This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of North Dakota, without regard to its conflict of law principles.

VIII. Acknowledgment

The Participant acknowledges that they have read this Agreement, understand it, and agree to be bound by its terms. The Participant further acknowledges that this Agreement represents the entire understanding between the Participant and the North Dakota State Fair concerning the Participant's participation in the Contest and supersedes any prior or contemporaneous negotiations or agreements, whether written or oral.

Signed this ____ day of _____, _____.

Participant's Name (Print)

Participant's Signature

Date

If the Participant is under 18 years of age, a parent or legal guardian must also sign.

Parent/Guardian's Name (Print) (If applicable)

Parent/Guardian's Signature (If applicable)

Date