



# Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa Pageant Official Rules and Regulations

*Failure to comply with any of the below rules will result in disqualification from the pageant*

## **Pageant Rules**

1. Contestants must be between the ages of 16 and 26 prior to May 1 of the current year. She must be attending high school, junior college, technical school, college, university, be a high school graduate or have achieved a GED certificate.
2. Contestants must be a citizen or eligible to work in the United States of America.
3. Any contestant who is an Iowa resident, but is attending an accredited college or university in another state may compete in the pageant.
4. Any contestant who is not an Iowa resident, but is attending an accredited college or university in Iowa may compete in the pageant.
5. Contestants must be single (not married), female, never married, cannot be expecting or with child or become pregnant during her reign.
6. Contestants must be of full or partial Czech, Moravian, Silesian, or Slovak descent or be legally adopted by parents of this descent.
7. Contestants may not be a former Miss Czech-Slovak U.S. Contestant may have reigned as Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa for one year but may not compete to extend her reign to two consecutive years. The reigning queen serves as Master of Ceremonies and passes down her title at the next pageant. She may compete again for the Iowa title after a one-year absence.
8. Contestants must appear in authentic or Americanized Czech/Slovak costume for the duration of the pageant weekend. **Acquiring a kroj is the responsibility of the contestant.** Contestants will not wear a sash or crown during the pageant.
9. Contestants must not partake in any offensive behavior which could cause a negative impact on the Iowa pageant or Czech Heritage Foundation. This behavior includes...
  - Possessing/using drugs, tobacco or alcohol at any time during the pageant weekend OR at any event in kroj, crown and sash. This includes contestants/queens who are of legal age to possess these substances.
  - Posting/sharing irresponsible/inappropriate tweets, posts, photos, etc. on any social media platform including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat.Failure to comply with these rules will result in disciplinary action from the Czech Heritage Foundation and the Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa Pageant Committee.
10. Contestant must be personally present at all four judged categories of the competition and the crowning as scheduled per pageant program. This is critical to prepare contestants for the national pageant. Failure to complete any category will result in disqualification.

## **Individual Category Rules**

\*Note: these are the rules for both the Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa and Miss Czech-Slovak U.S. Pageant. Contestants will compete in alphabetical order by last name\*

### ***Private Interview Rules***

1. Contestant must be interviewed in the same kroj she presents during the kroj modeling category.
2. Contestant will receive a seven-minute interview panel style with the judges.
3. All contestants will receive the same first three questions. After these questions, judges may ask their own questions or questions approved by the pageant committee.
4. Judges cannot ask questions about personal political affiliation, sexual topics, or personal religious affiliation or beliefs.
5. The pageant timer will announce when 30 seconds are left, contestant should answer final question or finish current question.

### ***Kroj Modeling Rules***

1. Contestants must appear in an authentic or Americanized Czech/Slovak costume. It may be her own creation from either America or the Czech/Slovak Republic, purchased as a wholly assembled importation and/or borrowed. Kroje that are family heirlooms are acceptable.
2. A brief description of the costume must be sent in with the entry form. The description should be no more than 250 words in length. This will be read aloud as contestants model their costumes on stage during the competition. The description should flow as the contestants are modeling it and should be written in third person (i.e.: Suzy is wearing a white blouse with red embroidery on the sleeves). Some things to include in a kroj description are as follows:
  - If it is hand constructed by the contestant
  - If any part or whole of the costume is an heirloom
  - If any of the material comes from the Czech/Slovak Republic
  - What type of symbolism the kroj hasThe Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa Pageant Committee is available to help contestants get started with their descriptions if they have never written one before.
3. Descriptions must be typed with contestant's name in page header.
4. A kroj modeling practice session will be held so contestants can practice and receive feedback prior to the pageant.

### ***Oratory (On Stage Interview) Rules***

1. Contestants will be asked three questions in front of the audience and judges at the pageant. These three questions will be drawn from a bowl by the contestant.

2. The three questions are as follows:
  - An “Americanized” personal question from the interesting topics/facts section on the entry form the contestant submitted. These questions can tie into Czech traditions in the contestant’s life, why they want to be a state queen, involvement in Czech activities, etc.
  - An “Authentic” question (i.e.: asking about historical figures/events in the Czech Republic/Slovakia, traditions, holidays, current issues, etc.)
  - A kroj question
3. Contestants will be sent a study guide for the oratory portion of the competition before the pageant. However, research for the topics will be done by the contestants themselves.
4. Contestants cannot read question prior to handing to the Master of Ceremonies.
5. There is no time limit to this category. Answer should be concise and on subject to the questions asked.

### ***Talent Rules***

1. Talent act is limited to no more than four minutes and must be a live presentation. Talent begins with a formal introduction and concludes with work, note or motion. Introduction can include: what talent they will be performing, why they chose their talent and how it relates to the candidate. The introduction is part of the four-minute time limit.
2. Talent can be singing, dancing, playing a musical instrument, dramatic reading, art display, dress designing, poetry, drawings, gymnastics, or a verbal oration on a subject or topic.
3. Pre-recorded and pre-created props will not be considered/judged in overall performances.
4. An on-stage accompanist is allowed, but no other partners can perform with contestant.
5. Contestants must describe their talent in detail on the talent form included with the entry form. The Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa Pageant Committee reserves the right to refuse an inappropriate talent.
6. Contestants are responsible for all props for their talent. The pageant may provide a microphone, piano, and speaker system. The contestant must provide any other props. AV technology presentations are not recommended.
7. We encourage contestants to perform their talent in Czech or Slovak language or works by Czech-Slovak composers. However, performing a Czech or Slovak talent is not mandatory.
8. There will be an official talent timer located next to the judges' table. The timer will hold up cards at minute intervals for the contestant's information. At four minutes the timer will hold up a STOP card. If the stop card is held up the contestant will be deducted 5 points from her overall talent score.

9. Candidates will be allowed to restart their entire presentation due to a technical and/or mechanical difficulty or in the event of an “act of God”.