

**AIM**

**AMERICA'S INTERNATIONAL MISS**  
**LOVE LEAD SERVE**

# Judges Manual

*Thank you for being a part of the AIM Family. We are so excited to have you judging for us and know that you have a very hard job this weekend. In this manual you will find the following:*

- *Tally Genie instructions*
- *Handbook guidelines given to our delegates. (Copied straight from handbook)*
- *Guidelines for judging*
- *Deduction Guidelines*
- *Schedule of pageant events*
- *Schedule for judges*

*If you have any questions, please direct them to me, India Dickinson, before the pageant. I will have little to no contact with you during the pageant. The only person you should be conversing with during the pageant is the Tally Genie Expert- Allison Butler-Carson or Allissa Rhoads. Allison/Allissa will have a helper with them that will assist in any area needed.*

*Again, thank you for being a part of this adventure with us. We appreciate you tremendously.*

*With much love and appreciation,  
India Dickinson and staff  
Judges Manual*

## Tally Genie

A training video was sent to you prior to the pageant for training. Any questions should be directed to your Tally Genie expert Allison or Allissa. If at any point you have missed giving a contestant a score, please simply hold up your red flag and an assistant will come to your aide. The red flag will also stop any other contestants from coming on stage. This will allow you time to correct any errors. Once you are ready to continue, please raise your green flag.

Tally Genie is a very advanced technology. It will issue an alert to our expert if a judge is scoring a particular contestant extremely high and scoring other delegates low. We do not tolerate low scoring. We use a point system to keep scoring fair while remembering our delegates feelings. For example, you may use a point system as follows. 8.5, 9.2, 9.9, etc. We do not score under 8.5.

You will be issued your log in to Tally Genie from Allison/Allissa prior to pageant. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask.



**Tally Genie is the premier tabulation and auditing software solution for the pageant industry. The software handles everything from early contestant registration, payment of fees, purchasing of pageant merchandise, electronic judging, and, of course, computing the final results instantly.**

**It speeds the process from end-to-end and eliminates human error. The software has been featured in Pageantry Magazine and is used across the globe with some of the largest pageant systems in the world.**

**Guidelines from Handbook**  
**Mandatory Competitions**

**Interview 40%** - This is your moment to shine! Contestants will participate in a panel-style interview. AIM 1 (ages 4-12) will have a two-minute interview. AIM 2 (Ages 13+) will have a three-minute interview. All questions will be drawn from the official Interview Question Sheet. Attire should be an interview dress or Sunday best, something that reflects your personality and shows your best self.

**Runway Wear 30%**- This is your chance to take the stage and model an outfit that reflects your unique sense of style and fashion. This fun, upbeat modeling competition is all about confidence, personality, and flair!  
Music will be provided—custom music is not permitted. Please ensure all outfits are age-appropriate and showcase your best self.

**Beauty (Evening Gown) 30%**- Contestants will be judged on their grace, poise, and overall appearance. Evening gowns should be tasteful and age-appropriate, complementing the contestant's style and personality.  
For all age divisions, a floor-length gown is required.

**\*\*\* ALL Scores must be  
accompanied by a comment as to  
why the certain score was given\*\*\*\***

**If you subtract points please dictate,  
why!**

### Optional Competitions

The Runway Wear required competition score may be replaced by a higher optional stage score.

**Color Photogenic:** Headshot only! Either 5x7 or 8x10 in size.

up to three additional entries may be submitted, however the fee is per photo.

**Black and White Photogenic:** Headshot only! Either 5x7 or 8x10 in size.

up to three additional entries may be submitted, however the fee is per photo.

**Print Model Photogenic:** These should be professional-style modeling shots, like those seen in newspapers, magazines, or brochures. Photos may be full-body, half-body, or headshots with a more high-fashion look. up to three additional entries may be submitted, however the fee is per photo.

**Talent:** Performances are based on 2 minutes. Indicate the type of talent and provide a brief description on the talent information sheet (available in the delegate portal). Props are allowed only if they can be quickly placed on the stage by one person. Microphones and stands will be provided. one winner per age division will receive an official America's International Miss Award.

**Casual Wear:** A fun competition for contestants to model a casual outfit of their choice. outfits should be age appropriate.

**Fitness Wear:** Delegates will model age-appropriate fitness, aerobics, or yoga attire in any color. Both one- and two-piece outfits are allowed. Footwear may include tennis shoes, athletic shoes, or Keds. Delegates should present themselves with an upbeat, positive demeanor. Please note: tumbling is not permitted. Judging will be based on overall outfit choice, physical fitness, posture, and confidence.

**State Wear** Showcase your state! Anything goes here that represents your state - colors, flowers, animals, gems, etc. outfit must be age appropriate. The sky is the limit here! Outfit can be off the rack or custom.

**\*\*\* ALL Scores must be  
accompanied by a comment as to  
why the certain score was given\*\*\*\***

**If you subtract points please dictate,  
why!**

## RULES FOR MAKE-UP

**AIM 1** (which includes Little Miss, Young Miss and Junior Miss) Ages 4-12:

**Interview:** No false eyelashes and light makeup only.

**Stage events:** extensions and lashes are allowed.

Please remember to keep them always looking age appropriate throughout the pageant.

\*\*\*\* In the past we have had delegates in this age division go to Interview with full makeup/eyelashes. If this is done, please make sure you take off an entire half point. Our instructions are clear and going against them will require a deduction of points\*\*\*\* In your comments please state reasoning for point deduction.

Tanning is allowed in both AIM 1 and AIM 2 in all competitions.

**AIM2** (which includes Pre-Teen, Teen, Miss and MS) AIM 2 Ages 13 & up:

**Interview & stage events:** extensions and false lashes are allowed.

Please remember to keep them looking age appropriate at all times throughout the pageant.

The makeup that is appropriate for a 13-year-old is not the same as someone in the Ms/Mrs division. Please keep that in mind.

**\*\*\* ALL Scores must be accompanied by a comment as to why the certain score was given\*\*\*\***

**If you subtract points please dictate, why!**

## **Guidance & Philosophy**

### **Judging with Integrity & Individuality**

All delegates are to be judged on a personal, individual basis. Do not compare one delegate to another. Each contestant brings her own unique beauty, presence, and personality to the stage. AIM proudly embraces individuality—cookie-cutter pageantry is no longer the norm. Natural curly hair, straight hair, braces, freckles, glasses, no spray tan, or a spray tan—all are acceptable and should be evaluated individually, not against a personal preference or trend.

- Spray tans are allowed but never required
  - No delegate should be penalized for choosing a natural appearance
  - Judges are encouraged to celebrate authenticity over conformity
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#### **Stage Presence & Walking Pattern**

Delegates were given a very specific and strict walking pattern.

- This phase is not about excessive spins, twirls, or choreography
  - Delegates may perform up to two quick poses at the end of the stage
  - Please evaluate how well the delegate follows the instructed pattern, maintains confidence, and carries herself with control and poise
  - Execution, confidence, and understanding of the walk are more important than flashy movements
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#### **Beauty & Overall Impression**

Beauty should be evaluated as:

##### **Graceful • Elegant • Age-appropriate**

AIM values genuine presence over forced performance. The “fake laugh” or overly exaggerated expressions are common trends right now. If a reaction feels forced or unnatural rather than a sincere connection with the audience, judges may use their discretion when awarding points.

We are looking for:

- Natural confidence
  - Authentic facial expressions
  - Comfortable stage presence
  - True joy, not rehearsed theatrics
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#### **Additional Judging Reminders**

- Judge what is presented on stage, not what you believe could be improved
  - Do not project personal pageant experiences or past systems onto AIM
  - Avoid favoring a certain “look,” age group, or style
  - Each delegate deserves a fresh scorecard and an unbiased evaluation
  - Cultural differences, personality types, and comfort levels should be respected
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#### **Remember:**

Your role is not to create a queen, but to recognize one.

### **Guidelines to follow while Judging**

**Interview:** They should be well spoken (age appropriate) Little Miss, Young Miss- Light makeup, we want our young groups to look like children. Remaining ages: Well put together, great personality, approachable, makes eye contact and will represent AIM in a positive light. Please keep in mind in our Little Miss Division the age starts at 4 years old. If they get scared, crack a joke, make them feel comfortable.

\*\*\* Please interview Pre-Teen and above as if this were going to be their full-time job. In the past we have had queens only halfway represent their title and we do not want to repeat this. \*\*\*

**Runway:** Age appropriate, big personality, clothing fits properly and enhances their stage presence, they should be having fun. Eye contact and overall appearance.

**Beauty:** Age appropriate, eye contact, grace, poise, dress fits properly, positive body language. This is NOT glitz however, some children may model a little heavier than others. Either is acceptable just not over the top with big faces. Think Miss USA or Miss America. All Optional: Please judge each category for personality, age appropriateness and overall appearance.

#### **TIME LIMITS:**

AIM is about fairness.... We have two emcees, one announcing and one starting/stopping a stopwatch. Each delegate has the exact same time on stage no matter what.

Talent- 2 minutes

All other stage events -90 seconds max.

Time begins when they step on the first X.

Once our Emcee says "thank you" the delegate is expected to exit stage.

An optional stage score can replace the runway score so please keep this in mind when

judging. We do not give you a copy of the Program Book until completion of the pageant.

**We are a scholarship pageant, and every child has worked hard to be here. Please smile, make eye contact, and make them feel comfortable and loved.**

## Interview Rubric & Point Deductions

**\*\*Each delegate will receive their Interview Video for Free\*\***

The interview phase is designed to evaluate each delegate's ability to communicate, think independently, and present herself with confidence and authenticity.

All scoring begins at the maximum score. Judges will deduct in increments of 0.10 (one-tenth of a point) based on observable factors.

Important:

For every 0.10 deduction, a clear and specific comment must be written on the score sheet. This ensures fairness, transparency, and meaningful feedback.

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### General Deduction Guidelines

Deductions should only be made based on what is seen and heard during the interview. Judges must not assume, interpret beyond what is presented, or compare delegates.

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### Communication Skills Deductions

- Difficulty clearly answering the question
  - Rambling or going off-topic
  - Answers are too short with little substance
  - Lack of clarity or organization in responses
  - Overuse of filler words (um, like, etc.) that distract from communication
  - Speaking too quietly or difficult to hear
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### Confidence & Composure Deductions

- Visible nervousness that impacts delivery (fidgeting, avoiding eye contact)
  - Lack of eye contact with judges
  - Closed-off body language (arms crossed, slouching)
  - Appearing uncomfortable or disengaged
  - Overly rehearsed or robotic responses
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### Authenticity & Personality Deductions

- Answers feel insincere or overly "pageant scripted"
  - Lack of personality or individuality in responses
  - Inability to express personal opinions or experiences
  - Responses that do not reflect genuine thought or connection
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### Professionalism & Presence Deductions

- Interrupting judges or not listening fully to questions
  - Inappropriate or off-topic responses
  - Lack of enthusiasm or energy
  - Poor posture or overall presentation
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### **Content & Thoughtfulness Deductions**

- Fully answering the question asked
  - Lack of depth or critical thinking
  - Answers that are vague or generic
  - Difficulty expanding on ideas when prompted
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### **Timing & Flow**

- Taking excessive time to respond without substance
  - Speaking too quickly, making answers hard to follow
  - Awkward pauses that disrupt flow
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### **Judge Responsibility Reminder**

- Judge based on age-appropriateness and division expectations
  - Do not expect perfection—look for genuine communication
  - Do not project personal opinions, beliefs, or experiences
  - Each delegate should be evaluated independently and fairly
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### **Interview Attire Deductions**

- Outfit is not age-appropriate
- Clothing does not fit properly (too tight, too loose, ill-fitted)
- Distracting or unprofessional outfit choice
- Visible undergarments or wardrobe issues
- Shoes inappropriate for interview setting or difficult to walk in
- Overall appearance appears unpolished or incomplete

### **Final Note**

The goal of interview is not to find the “perfect speaker,” but to recognize a delegate who is confident, genuine, and able to communicate who she is. Authenticity should always be higher than memorization.

# Judging Rubric & Point Deductions for ALL STAGE EVENTS

## AIM Pageant System

All scoring begins at the maximum score for each category. Judges will deduct in increments of **0.10 (one-tenth of a point)** based on observable factors.

### Important:

For **every 0.10 deduction**, a clear and specific comment **must** be written on the score sheet. This ensures fairness, transparency, and constructive feedback for each delegate.

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### General Deduction Guidelines

Deductions should only be made when something noticeably impacts presentation, confidence, or execution.

### Examples of Standard Deductions (0.10 each):

- Visible nervousness (shaking, hesitation, lack of eye contact)
  - Breaking or forgetting the walking pattern
  - Going over the time limit
  - Rushing significantly under time (if it affects presentation)
  - Lack of eye contact with judges/audience
  - Poor posture or slouching
  - Lack of confidence or stage presence
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### Appearance & Wardrobe Deductions

- Dress does not properly fit (too loose, too tight, gaping, dragging)
  - Visible undergarments or wardrobe malfunction
  - Shoes clearly visible when they should not be
  - Difficulty walking due to shoes or outfit
  - Distracting or unpolished overall appearance
  - Hair, makeup, or styling appears incomplete or overly distracting
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### Stage Presence & Execution Deductions

- Excessive or unapproved choreography (too many spins, twirls, etc.)
  - More than two poses at the end of the stage
  - Lack of control in movements
  - Awkward or unintentional pauses
  - Failure to follow instructed pattern
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### Facial Expression & Presentation Deductions

- Forced or unnatural facial expressions
  - "Fake" or overly exaggerated reactions
  - Lack of expression or engagement
  - Inconsistent or inappropriate expressions for age/division
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### Timing Violations

- Exceeding time limit: **-0.10**
  - Significant overage: additional **-0.10 per noticeable violation**
  - Under time (if it impacts performance quality): **-0.10**
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## Judge Responsibility Reminder

- Each deduction must reflect something **clearly observed**
  - Comments must be **constructive, specific, and respectful**
  - Do not “stack” deductions unfairly for the same issue—use discretion
  - Focus on what is presented in the moment
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## Final Note

Judging should always reflect the core values of AIM: **confidence, authenticity, and individuality**. Deductions are not meant to punish—but to fairly differentiate performances while maintaining integrity in scoring.

\*\*\*Please take notes on your pad provided\*\*\*

*Example: Little Suzie comes on stage scared, she is walking fast and does not go to the end of the stage with head down. Her shoes are showing.*

*Her score should be 9.5*

*Then quickly in comments just put nervous, walks too fast, head down, no eye contact, shoes showing. She is gorgeous in Pink.*

*Always follow up with a positive.*

*If something is excessive and constant you may stack the points. If Little Suzie held her head down the entire time then take off .20 and in comments put reasoning. Only stack twice for the same problem and only if it is excessive.*

*You are the judge and can most certainly use discretion, however, please just make sure you document why a score is given.*

**\*YOU WILL BE GIVEN PLENTY OF TIME FOR COMMENTS, PLEASE DO NOT WRITE A BOOK, USE QUICK WORDING THAT WILL ALLOW THE PARENTS TO SEE WHERE WORK IS NEEDED\***

**SCHEDULE OF PAGEANT FOR DELEGATES:**

# Judges Schedule