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Akwa Ibom State Association of Nigeria, USA, Inc. (AKISAN), Mr Akwa Ibom National Competition Guidelines

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HOUSTON, AKISAN NATIONAL PAGEANT PORFOLIO

AKISAN Mr. Akwa Ibom National Competition Guidelines

Akwa Ibom State Association of Nigeria, USA, Inc. (AKISAN) is delighted that you are interested in participating in the run for the Mr Akwa Ibom National Competition. What an honor it is to represent your community and your culture. We, as an organization, are already proud of you for taking a bold step to showcase your exceptional skills and talent and highlight the magnificent aspects of Akwa Ibom culture.

The purpose of this document is to highlight the governing guidelines of the Mr Akwa Ibom National Competition.

- Such terms as "Applicant" used in this guidelines are referring to the person(s) applying for entrance into the Mr Akwa Ibom National Competition.
- Such terms as "Winner" used in this guidelines are referring to the person who has applied for entrance, was accepted as a participant, and national title as Mr Akwa Ibom.
- Applicant must be a naturally born male in order to compete in the competition.
- Applicant must reside within the United States in order to compete in the competition.
- Must be 18-25 years of age as of the National Convention Competition dates of the competition year.
- Applicant understands that he must compete in the four main areas of competition in order to be selected as a National Competition winner; which includes the Introduction, Talent, Interview and Gentleman's formal attire competitions.
- Applicant understands that he must submit the required materials and information for the appropriate competitions (which includes the Introduction, Talent, and Formal attire) along with his entry application.
- Applicant understands that he must uphold a pleasant, professional, and friendly demeanor at all times while representing the Mr Akwa Ibom National Competition and title.
- Applicant understands that the judges' decisions and scoring are final and will not be changed. The names of the National Competition judges will be announced before the beginning of the contest.
- If the Applicant becomes a pageant title winner, he understands that he will receive the following: Crown, Sash, Cane, Gift and Cash Award, if available.
- Applicant understands that the AKISAN Beauty Pageant Portfolio Committee and AKISAN reserves the right to add, change, or delete any of these guidelines at any time without giving notice.
- Applicant is required to strictly adhere to the National Competition guidelines; and if any of these guidelines are broken by the applicant, applicant understands that participation disqualification and title revocation will be the resulting resolution to the matter.

Preliminary Requirements

- Applicant is required to enter into a local Chapter preliminary pageant to qualify for the Mr Akwa Ibom National Pageant, if there is a local chapter pageant.

- Applicant agrees to attend the Mr Akwa Ibom National Competition if selected as the winner in a preliminary local chapter pageant and further abide by all the required services, rules and guidelines governing this pageant. If the local chapter does not conduct a pageant, the chapter can nominate a member to contest for Mr Akwa Ibom. All applicants must be nominated by an AKISAN Chapter and must be an AKISAN member or his parents must be an AKISAN member.

Tie-Ups

- Winner may have a modeling, commercial tie-up, personal management and/or agency contract. This contract however does not include, authorize or permit the use of the name of the Mr Akwa Ibom National Competition, or any other registered trademark or trade name of the Akwa Ibom State Association or any title designation or reference with respect to the pageant in any manner.

Eligibility

- All issues as to eligibility shall be determined solely and exclusively by Mr Akwa Ibom National Pageant Portfolio committee. Applicant agrees to abide by eligibility determination both as to himself and others. Applicant agrees to produce an original copy of his birth certificate to verify age and gender upon request. Applicant agrees to produce a color copy of his U.S. Passport or application of his U.S. Passport, green card, Nigerian Passport, or official documentation indicating their immigration status prior to the National competition. The Committee reserves the right to refuse entry into the Mr Akwa Ibom National Competition to anyone for any reason as deemed necessary within the stated guidelines.

Competition

- The Mr Akwa Ibom National Competition will consist of a Self-Introduction competition segment which will be weighted at 25%, a Talent competition segment which will be weighted at 25%, a formal attire competition segment which will be weighted at 25%, and an Interview competition segment which will be weighted at 25%.

Open production Number (not judged)

- The Mr Akwa Ibom National Competition will include a choreographed opening number. Applicants shall wear the designated color for the opening number as specified by competition coordinator. Information about the Opening Production Number and required attire to be provided when available. The Opening Production Number is not judged.

Self-Introduction Competition (25%)

- Applicants are required to present a 90 second self-introduction to include but not limited to: Name, age, parental linkage (village, Local Government Area) to Akwa Ibom State, educational status or occupation, future aspirations, and volunteer project
- **Judging Criteria:** Overall impression, Personal appearance, Personality, Speech and vocabulary, poise: Handsome and Sophisticated.

Talent Competition (25%)

- Applicants are required to present a 3 – 4 minute artistic talent accentuating their natural talent. This will be an individual endeavor on stage. The use of musical accompaniment and/or instruments are allowed.
- **Judging criteria:** Stage appearance, Audience response, Originality, Personality, Timelines, Confidence, and Overall performance.

Formal Attire (25%)

- Applicants are required to model an evening attire. Mr Akwa Ibom National must carry himself with dignity, grace, poise, and elegance. Judges will not be evaluating the cost or designer label of the attire, but rather how well it suits the Applicant (e.g., fit, color, style) as well as Applicant's on-stage presentation. The attire should be expressive of our African (Nigerian) culture and fashion sense.
- **Judging criteria:** Overall first impression, Modeling technique, Grooming, Personality and Stage presence, Appropriateness of attire, and a Sense of fashion and style.

Interview Competition on Stage (25%)

- Applicants are required to provide an answer to a posed interview question. Applicants must be able to express themselves with confidence. Applicants will respond to questions on-stage. The questions will be drawn randomly from a question pool by the Applicant and addressed on stage.
- Applicant will have 2 minutes to articulate the answer to the posed question.
- **Judging criteria:** Articulation, Quality of Response, Validated Opinions, Speech, Vocabulary and Grammar, Responses in Context, Emotional Control, Poise, Personality, Intelligence and Eloquence.

Judging

- A minimum of 4 judges will evaluate applicants in the four areas of the competition.
- AKISAN Pageant Coordinators has sole discretion and complete authority to select judges.
- Reasonable efforts are made to secure a culturally and professionally diverse panel of judges
- Judges' names are not released to Applicants prior to arrival at the pageant site.
- Applicants may not approach the judges or engage in conversation with judges prior to or during the competition. Applicants who are observed approaching a judge or engaging in conversation with a judge beyond a brief greeting risk immediate disqualification.
- Judges are provided with training and instructions regarding scoring procedures prior to the competition.
- The decision of the judges is final and not contestable for any reason.

Scoring

- Scoring is conducted on a 10-point scale on each category.
- A one (1) point deduction will be applied to all overtime performances.
- The final score from each category will be tallied.
- The Applicant with the highest final score will be elected the Winner.
- The Applicant with the next highest final score will be elected the Runner-up.

Breaking Ties

- Should there be a tie, all contestants will engage in a second round of Interview on Stage.
- The scores from this round will be added to the original final scores for each Applicant.
- The Applicant with the highest final score will be elected the Winner.
- The Applicant with the next highest final score will be elected the Runner-up.

Awards

- The applicant who emerges as the Mr Akwa Ibom National Competition Winner will be awarded the following:
 - A gift
 - Crown and Sash and Cane (On Stage)
 - A designate cash amount which will be presented as a check (On stage)
 - Information about the exact cash value as the Winner prize will be provided 3 weeks prior to each national competition, if available.
- The applicant who emerges as the Mr Akwa Ibom National Competition Runner-up will be awarded the following:
 - A gift
 - A designated cash amount, not to exceed the cash value awarded to the first place winner will be presented as a check (on stage)

Deadlines

- The entry deadlines are posted on the www.AKISAN.org site under the Pageant link. Preliminary pageants at the local chapter level must be concluded by the National competition entry deadline. There will be no exceptions under any circumstances. In the event that a local chapter is unable to conduct a local pageant, the chapter can nominate a representative to compete in the national pageant. All required applicant paperwork (e.g., Biographical Information Form, etc.) must be complete and received by the Pageant Coordinator managing the AKISAN Pageant portfolio which is posted in the paperwork on or before the designated deadline. Required headshot photo for the Official Program Booklet must be received by the deadline which is posted in the paperwork. All deadlines are strictly enforced and must be adhered to by applicants and preliminary pageant directors. Applicant (and coordinator, if applicable) understands and agrees to the following penalty for late submission of required items, including paperwork and photography by posted deadlines: A total of 1 point per day per late item is deducted from Applicant's total score.

Other Requirements

- **Biographical Information:** Applicant must submit biographical information to include: Full Name, age, parental linkage (village, Local Government Area) to Akwa Ibom State, Local Chapter Represented, School Attended, Future Aspirations, and Project Portfolio.
- **Photography:** Applicant must submit a headshot photo for the AKISAN National Convention Program Booklet and the Mr Akwa Ibom National webpage.
- **Attire:** Applicants will provide their own competition attire. Other wardrobe requirements will be posted on the pageant website
- **Travel:** Applicants will make their own travel arrangements. AKISAN National is not responsible for arranging travel or intervening / resolving disputes involving travel to the convention site for the pageant competition.
- **Hotel:** Applicants may stay in the convention hotel but they are not required to. Although applicants must stay in a hotel close enough to pageant activities and provide their own transportation to and from the host hotel. Applicants and their families must make their own hotel reservations.

Code of Conduct

- Applicant affirms that he is and will continue to be a person of good moral character; that he has not committed and will not commit any act inconsistent with the highest standards of public morals and conventions or that will reflect unfavorably on the pageant, the AKISAN organization, its representatives, and/or sponsors. That he has not appeared in nude or provocative photographs for any film or publication prior to, during the pageant finals, or during his reign should he become a Preliminary Winner. Applicant will conduct himself in a courteous, professional manner at all times during the Mr Akwa Ibom National Competition and while representing a Mr Akwa Ibom title. Applicant will not slander or libel other contestants, judges, staff or anyone else involved with or connected to the Mr Akwa Ibom National Competition. Defamatory verbal and/or written remarks against AKISAN and the Mr Akwa Ibom Pageant will result in immediate disqualification, forfeiture of any and all prizes and awards won, and legal charges. Any Applicant found publicly posting slanderous remarks on public forums will be immediately disqualified. Good sportsmanship is expected at all times. Disruptive behavior before, during, or after the pageant may result in disqualification, removal from the premises, and legal charges. Applicant agrees to sign a Code of Conduct statement indicating agreement to abide by the terms specified here. Failure to sign the Code of Conduct statement does not in any way release Applicant from responsibility to abide by the Code of Conduct stated here. All issues related to the Code of Conduct and consequences for violation thereof shall be determined solely and exclusively by AKISAN National Pageant coordinators, and AKISAN Legal counsel. Applicant agrees to accept such determinations made by both as to himself and others.

Participation in the National Competition

- Applicants are expected to be on time and present for all scheduled rehearsals and events leading up to and during the pageant. Applicants will lose 1 point for each unexcused missed event. In the event of illness, an applicant may be excused from attending an event. AKISAN

pageant portfolio coordinator is the only individual with the authority to release an applicant from a scheduled event

Winner's Contract

- If selected as the Mr Akwa Ibom National, applicant agrees to sign a contract stating agreement to arrange with the Pageant Coordinator and make appearances throughout his year's reign. Appearances may include but are not limited to AKISAN council meetings; youth events, volunteer events, convention interviews; and public appearances at events all within the United States. Winners are expected to make appearances and provide photographs of appearances to the National Pageant Coordinator for the promotion of next Mr Akwa Ibom Competition on AKISAN website and other media sources. If applicant is unwilling to sign the contract and/or unable or unwilling to fulfill the obligations, the title won and all prizes will be awarded to the first runner up.
- The reign of Mr Akwa Ibom will commence immediately after crowning and will end immediately following the crowning of their successor. Mr Akwa Ibom National agrees to make regular contact with local chapter Mr Akwa Ibom s, by phone, letter, or e-mail in addition to the local Youth chapter Presidents and the Local Chapter Presidents, at least quarterly to ascertain and discuss the state of the youths within each chapter. Mr Akwa Ibom National agrees to provide AKISAN Pageant portfolio Committee chair, with copies of articles pertaining to his reign and pictures of appearances for the pageant history library. Winner is expected to give his time and energy to this title and this title only during their year's reign. Winner may have a modeling, commercial tie-up, personal management and/or agency contract, which contract however does not include, authorize or permit the use of the name of the Mr Akwa Ibom title, or any other registered trade name, trademark or logo of AKISAN, or any title designation or reference with respect to the organization or pageant in any manner. Mr Akwa Ibom National agrees to attend the next year's pageant to crown his successor. Winner's travel, and lodging expenses will be arranged for and paid by AKISAN National.
- Any pledges and/or financial sponsorship or gifts awarded by an external organization and/or individual to the Mr Akwa Ibom National title holder must be made through the AKISAN National Secretariat. Any such funds will be routed to the Pageant budget and dispersed to the Mr Akwa Ibom title holder for his specified project. All activities conducted under the office of the National Beauty Pageant/National Competition must be accompanied with receipts and submitted to the AKISAN National Secretariat for tax recording purposes and in keeping with our 501c3 status.
- Mr Akwa Ibom National title holder shall not travel within or outside of the United States for appearances and/or projects without first submitting the nature of the appearances and/or projects, the travel plan and the budget to the AKISAN Pageant Portfolio Committee Chair for approval. Upon approval of the appearances and/or projects the AKISAN Pageant Portfolio Committee will do whatever is necessary to facilitate the trip, including assigning of AKISAN representative to accompany Mr Akwa Ibom National title holder. AKISAN shall not be responsible for any unapproved appearances and/or travels and any title holder who violates the guidelines may be disqualified.

Statement of Understanding & Agreement

- **Publicity and Promotion:** By virtue of participation in the Mr Akwa Ibom National Competition, applicant agrees to allow AKISAN, the right to use his name, likeness, voice and/or biographical information for purposes of publicity and promotion now and in the future. Applicant understands that his name, likeness, voice, and/or biographical information may be used on the internet, in print advertising, press releases and merchandise related to the Mr Akwa Ibom National Competition (e.g., t-shirts, tote bags, hats, other apparel, mouse pads, and other promotional materials.) Applicant agrees to release AKISAN from liability for any injury resulting from publicity and promotion. Applicant agrees to waive any and all compensation for use of his name, likeness, voice, and /or biographical information for purposes of publicity and promotion.
- **Photography & Videography:** Applicant and their families are permitted to take photos and video during events and up to the on-stage pageant competition event, as long as it does not interfere with the production of the event, and does not obscure any other viewers of the event from freely and adequately enjoying the entertainment. Individuals who fail to comply with this rule will be asked to leave the venue without benefit of refund for admission ticket.
- **Disqualification / Title Relinquishment:** If applicant is disqualified or relinquishes, for any reason, any title awarded to him, all prizes must be returned in full, and in condition received. If, for any reason, the winner resigns or is disqualified, the 1st runner-up will assume the title and all prizes.
- **Limitation of Liability / Responsibility:**
 - a) AKISAN , its National officers, Board of Trustees, Chapter Presidents, current and past, are not liable to applicant for anything whatsoever in connection with any preliminary pageant leading to the Mr Akwa Ibom National Competition. Preliminary pageant applicant agrees to look solely to the Pageant Director with respect to all matters relating to his application, rules, regulations, policies, preparation, rehearsal, performance and selection process, and all other matters relating to the pageant.
 - b) AKISAN, its National officers, Board of Trustees, Chapter Presidents, current and past, and pageant personnel/volunteers are not responsible for accidents, injury or theft incurred at the time of the Mr Akwa Ibom National Competition or during travel to and from competition site.
- AKISAN is not responsible for loss, theft, or damage caused to any and all prizes, gifts, and awards bestowed upon applicant after these items become the property of applicant. Applicant agrees to incur replacement and/or repair costs to lost, stolen, or damaged items including but not limited to: crown/tiara, sash, plaques, trophies, etc.
- **Agreement:** By submitting the entry form for the Mr Akwa Ibom Competition to the National Pageant Portfolio committee chair on any Competition leading to the Mr Akwa Ibom National Competition, applicant agrees to abide by all policies, guidelines, rules and regulations set forth by AKISAN and National Pageant Portfolio Committee. Participation in the Mr Akwa Ibom National Competition also indicates acceptance and agreement to abide by all policies, guidelines, rules and regulations set forth by AKISAN and the National Pageant Portfolio Committee. Applicant attests that all information submitted, is true and accurate. Falsification of information and failure to comply with the policies of Mr Akwa Ibom National Competition,

may result in immediate disqualification and/or forfeiture of prizes won without benefit of refund in full or in part at the sole discretion of AKISAN.

X

Applicant Name

X

Applicant Signature

X

Date