GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

The following rules and regulations govern participation in the Miss Jamaica Festival Queen Competition at both Parish and National levels. All contestants and participants are required to comply fully with these provisions as a condition of entry and continued participation in the Competition.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Contestants must be unmarried female citizens of Jamaica (including naturalized citizens) between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) years as at the date of the National Coronation who have never given birth to a child.
2. Contestants must satisfy one of the following conditions: (a) birth in the Parish from which they seek to enter; or (b) continuous residence in that Parish for a minimum period of six (6) months immediately preceding the Parish Coronation. Proof or residence must be established by way of a written attestation by a Justice of the Peace.
3. Persons who have previously been crowned as Queen (first place) at the National level in any year shall be ineligible to enter the competition.
4. Persons who have previously been crowned as Queen (first place) at the Parish level in any year shall be ineligible to enter the competition in the Parish in which she was previously crowned Queen.
5. Persons who placed as first runner-up or second runner-up at either Parish or National Coronation in the immediately preceding year shall be ineligible to apply in the current Competition.
6. The Jamaica Cultural Development Commission reserves the right to require a medical examination of any Contestant by a certified Medical Practitioner. Contestants must not be pregnant at the time of application or during the competition period leading up to the Coronation.
7. Applications shall not be accepted from persons concurrently participating in any beauty pageant, modeling competition, or similar contest where the final of such competition is scheduled within three (3) months before or after the Miss Jamaica Festival Queen Parish Coronations. Contestants discovered to be in breach of this provision at any stage of the Competition shall be subject to disqualification.

PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

8. Each Contestant shall perform a cultural item at the Parish Coronation and, if selected as Parish

Queen, at the National Coronation. Acceptable performance categories include Dance, Music, Speech, Drama, Traditional Folk Forms, or any combination thereof. All cultural performances must demonstrate respect for and accurate representation of Jamaica's national symbols and shall not deface or misrepresent such symbols in any manner.

9. The maximum allotted time for each performance shall be one hundred and fifty (150) seconds or two and a half minutes. The lights and audio will be cut once the allotted time has expired.

10. The Jamaica Cultural Development Commission reserves the right to approve, require amendments to, or reject any performance item. This determination shall be made at the sole discretion of the Commission in consultation with its appointed trainer/talent coach.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OBLIGATIONS

11. Each Contestant shall demonstrate active involvement with a community group/project for a minimum period of one (1) year. Active involvement shall be defined as regular, sustained, and meaningful participation in the group/project's activities and initiatives.

QUEEN PROJECT FOR A BETTER JAMAICA

12. Contestants shall demonstrate that they have developed a project which they will lead and which must run from June 1 in year of entry in the Parish Competition to May 31 in the following year. Please also see clause #32.

TRAINING AND AVAILABILITY REQUIREMENTS

13. Contestants shall make themselves available for all training sessions scheduled in preparation for the Parish Coronation. Parish Queens selected to represent their Parish at the National level shall be required to attend all training sessions for the National Coronation, including a mandatory two-week residential training camp in Kingston during the month of July of the competition year.

14. Contestants shall make themselves available for all activities associated with the Parish Coronation, including but not limited to sashing ceremonies and courtesy calls. Parish Queens selected for National representation shall likewise be available for all activities associated with the National Coronation. Contestants are hereby advised that competition activities may be scheduled on Sundays and other days of religious observance. By submitting an application, contestants acknowledge and agree to participate in all scheduled activities regardless of personal religious practices or observances. Prospective contestants with concerns regarding scheduling conflicts arising from religious obligations are encouraged to discuss potential accommodations with the Commission prior to submitting their application.

15. Should a Parish Queen be unable to participate at the National level for any reason, she shall submit a formal written notification to the Commission relinquishing the crown and all associated prizes and privileges. In such circumstances, the first runner-up shall assume the duties, title, and responsibilities of Parish Queen. If the first runner-up is unavailable, the second runner-up shall assume these duties. Should neither the first nor second runner-up be

available to serve, the Parish shall have no representative Queen for that competition year.

PRESENTATION AND ATTIRE STANDARDS

16. The evening gown to be worn by each Contestant at the Coronation ceremony must be presented to the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission for review and approval no later than seven (7) calendar days prior to the scheduled Coronation date. This requirement applies to both Parish and National level competitions.

17. Parish committees shall approve all attire for finalists participating in Parish-level judging functions. All such attire must be submitted to the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission for approval no later than seven (7) calendar days prior to each scheduled function.

SPONSORSHIP AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

18. The Jamaica Cultural Development Commission reserves the exclusive right to contract for sponsorship arrangements on behalf of any or all contestants, exercising its sole discretion in such matters. Contestants shall be required to accept and faithfully represent any sponsors secured by the Commission.

19. The Jamaica Cultural Development Commission shall not be liable for any expenses incurred by contestants unless such expenses have been expressly authorized in writing by an authorized representative of the Commission prior to being incurred.

20. Sponsors shall have no obligation to provide assistance to any Contestant or Queen beyond the specific terms of sponsorship fees or arrangements paid to the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission.

21. No Contestant or Queen shall initiate direct contact with any sponsor, whether personally or through an intermediary, except through official channels established by the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission. All sponsor communications must be conducted through the Commission.

COMPETITION CONDUCT AND PROTOCOL

22. During the active competition period, any Contestant who departs from the official residence provided for Contestants during the National Coronation, absents herself from the official Festival Queen delegation, or accepts private engagements without prior written authorization from the Commission shall be subject to immediate disqualification.

23. The Jamaica Cultural Development Commission shall assume full responsibility for providing accommodation, meals, and transportation arrangements during the two-week residential training period leading up to the National Coronation.

24. The Jamaica Cultural Development Commission expressly disclaims liability for any loss of or damage to personal belongings of contestants, howsoever such loss or damage may be caused, during the course of their participation in the Competition.

ADJUDICATION AND FINAL DECISIONS

25. The Jamaica Cultural Development Commission reserves the exclusive right to appoint qualified adjudicators for all levels of the Competition, from Parish selection through to the

National Coronation.

26. The decisions rendered by the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission and its appointed panel of Judges shall be final, conclusive, and binding upon all parties at every level of the Competition. No appeals shall be entertained.

RULES GOVERNING THE MISS JAMAICA FESTIVAL QUEEN AND PARISH QUEENS

REIGN AND SUCCESSION

27. The Parish Festival Queen and Miss Jamaica Festival Queen shall each reign until such time as her successor is duly selected and crowned at the subsequent Festival Queen Competition, unless the title is withdrawn pursuant to these rules.

28. Miss Jamaica Festival Queen may be required to represent Jamaica at local and international pageants and cultural events as determined by the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission in its sole discretion. Should Miss Jamaica Festival Queen be unavailable to fulfill such representative duties, the Commission reserves the right to select any runner-up or reigning Parish Queen to serve in her stead.

29. The Jamaica Cultural Development Commission shall appoint official chaperones for all formal functions and shall approve detailed itineraries for all overseas trips undertaken in an official capacity. The Queen shall cooperate fully with appointed chaperones and comply with Commission directives both domestically and internationally.

30. Miss Jamaica Festival Queen and Parish Festival Queens shall provide advance written notification to the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission prior to undertaking any personal overseas travel during their respective reigns.

31. The Jamaica Cultural Development Commission shall serve as the exclusive liaison between Queens (Parish or National) and external groups or individuals extending invitations. The Commission reserves the right to approve or decline any and all such requests in its absolute discretion.

DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS DURING REIGN

32. Miss Jamaica Festival Queen and each Parish Queen shall identify, launch, and actively implement or collaborate with a community project during her reign. This may include continuation of an existing project, subject to consultation with and approval by the Commission. Queens shall submit progress reports to the Commission at intervals specified by the Commission. Please also see clause #12.

33. A Queen shall obtain prior written approval from the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission before entering into any commitment involving commercial advertising, product endorsement, or similar promotional activities during her reign.

GROUNDS FOR DISQUALIFICATION

34. The Jamaica Cultural Development Commission reserves the absolute and unfettered right to disqualify any contestant at any stage of the Competition without obligation to disclose its reasons publicly. Grounds for disqualification include, without limitation, the following circumstances:

a. The pregnancy of a Queen at any time during her reign shall constitute automatic grounds for disqualification and forfeiture of title.

b. Should any contestant at Parish or National level, during the course of the Competition, commit any breach of these rules or engage in any act or conduct which the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission, in its sole judgment, deems unbecoming, inappropriate, or likely to tarnish the reputation or image of the Commission or the Miss Jamaica Festival Queen brand, the Commission shall declare such contestant ineligible to continue in the Competition. The disqualified contestant shall immediately relinquish all privileges associated with her participation.

c. Should a Queen, during her reign, commit any breach of these rules or engage in any act or conduct which the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission, in its sole judgment, deems unbecoming, inappropriate, or likely to tarnish the reputation or image of the Commission or the Miss Jamaica Festival Queen brand, the Commission shall declare the title forfeited. The disqualified Queen shall immediately relinquish her title and all associated privileges, benefits, and prizes. All prizes, cash and/or kind, shall be returned by the disqualified Queen to the Commission upon being formally informed of the disqualification.

d. Should a Queen voluntarily relinquish her title, she shall notify the Commission in writing prior to or simultaneously with such relinquishment. Within fourteen (14) days of the date of that written notification, the relinquishing Queen shall return to the Commission all prizes, benefits, and privileges received in connection with the title, whether in cash or in kind. Where any prize, benefit, or privilege cannot be returned in its original form, including but not limited to cash prizes expended, vouchers redeemed, or experiential prizes utilized, the Commission shall be entitled to recover the full monetary value thereof from the relinquishing Queen as a debt due and owing. The relinquishing Queen's obligation to return or account for prizes shall not be affected by any subsequent withdrawal of the notice of relinquishment.

e. In the event that the title of Miss Jamaica Festival Queen or that of a Parish Queen is forfeited for any reason, the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission may, at its sole discretion, confer the title and all associated prizes and privileges upon the first runner-up. Should the first runner-up decline or be unavailable, the Commission may confer the title upon the second runner-up.

f. The Commission reserves the right to immediately disqualify any Contestant at Parish or National level who offers gifts, inducements, or any form of consideration to any adjudicator, or who aids, abets, or participates in any attempt to improperly influence or compromise the judgment of any adjudicator.

ASSIGNMENT OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

By submitting an application to participate in the Miss Jamaica Festival Queen Competition, the applicant hereby irrevocably assigns, transfers, and conveys to the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission the complete, exclusive, and perpetual worldwide rights to create, use, reproduce, and commercially exploit in any manner whatsoever all images, likenesses, audio-visual recordings, and sound recordings of the applicant's competition entry, performances, appearances, and all related materials arising from or connected with her participation in the Competition.

This comprehensive assignment shall encompass, without limitation, the right to produce and distribute mechanical reproductions including but not limited to audio-visual carriers, sound

recordings, image carriers, videotapes, digital video discs (DVD), compact discs (CD), and any other media formats whether now known or hereafter developed, as well as the unconditional right to broadcast, stream, transmit, or otherwise disseminate such content through radio, television, internet platforms, social media, and any other distribution channels in any and all media formats.

WARRANTIES AND INDEMNIFICATION

The applicant hereby expressly warrants, represents, and covenants that she possesses full legal authority and capacity to grant the foregoing intellectual property rights to the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission, free and clear of any encumbrances, adverse claims, or third-party rights. The applicant further agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission, its officers, directors, employees, agents, successors, and assigns from and against any and all claims, demands, actions, losses, damages, liabilities, costs, and expenses (including reasonable legal fees) that may arise from or relate to any third-party claims concerning the rights granted herein or any breach or alleged breach of these warranties and representations.

The applicant further agrees to execute, acknowledge, and deliver to the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission such additional instruments, documents, and agreements as may be reasonably necessary or advisable to give full force and effect to the undertakings, assignments, and obligations set forth herein.

SEVERABILITY

If any provision of these rules and regulations is held to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, such determination shall not affect the validity, legality, or enforceability of the remaining provisions, which shall continue in full force and effect. The invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision shall be deemed modified to the minimum extent necessary to make it valid, legal, and enforceable while preserving its original intent

Entrants are asked to complete the fillable entry form via our online platform at https://jcdc.awardsplatform.com/