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# Northeast Invitational Country Showdown

## RULES

### General

You must be a top performer from one of the following 2010 competitions: CCMA, DECMA, NECMO, NHCMA, or RICH

### Performance Guidelines

1. You will have eight minutes to perform. At seven minutes and thirty seconds, a warning light will flash. Points will be deducted after eight minutes as follows: 5 seconds over = 1 point, 6 seconds over = 2 points, 7 seconds over = 3 points, 8 seconds over = 4 points, etc..
2. You may bring a backup band or recorded music on CD. CD's must be clearly marked with name and category, and must not have lead vocals on the track(s). Songs should be on one CD with the appropriate space between songs.
3. If you bring a backup band for your performance, you must be able to stand alone as a vocalist, entertainer, or dancer without any interaction with the band. You will be judged as an individual performer as the band is not really there in the eyes of the judges. In order for a band to be judged, they must enter as a band. This will keep the playing field level for all contestants.
4. All entries are final when the NECMO office receives your entry form. Once the scheduling of contestants has been set, there will be no opportunity for changes.
5. You must perform in either new country, traditional country, gospel, or bluegrass – no crossovers, please. Your music may be originals or cover songs. You must use careful discretion in determining your style of music, or risk penalty. If you choose songs outside of your style choice, you will be penalized.

### Dancer/Dance Team

1. You will have eight minutes to perform. At seven minutes and thirty seconds, a warning light will flash. Points will be deducted after eight minutes as follows: 5 seconds over = 1 point, 6 seconds over = 2 points, 7 seconds over = 3 points, 8 seconds over = 4 points, etc..
2. You may bring music on CD. CD's must be clearly marked with name and category, and must not have lead vocals on the track(s). Songs should be on one CD with the appropriate space between songs.
3. You must perform a country dance (clogging, square dance, line dance, couples country, or buck dance). No interpretative dance or sign language dance.
4. All entries are final when the NECMO office receives your entry form. Once the scheduling of contestants has been set, there will be no opportunity for changes

### Judges

1. The decision of the judges will be final.
2. Any judge who is affiliated with a contestant will not be allowed to judge that category.
3. Judges will score each contestant on Quality of Performance, Originality of Performance/Arrangement, Star Quality Performance, Tightness of Performance, Stage Presence, and how well the material reflects Country, Gospel, or Bluegrass.
4. The judges scoring system will be as follows:
  - a. 6 points = Outstanding
  - b. 5 points = Excellent
  - c. 4 points = Very Good
  - d. 3 points = Good
  - e. 2 points = Average
  - f. 1 point = Below Average

### CD/Video

1. CD/video must be country, gospel, or bluegrass.
2. CD must contain at least three songs.

### Songwriters

1. You may enter as many songs as desired. Songs must be country, gospel, or bluegrass.
2. You must submit your entry form, an anonymous lyric sheet with lyrics neatly written or typed, and your CD.
3. Your identity will be unknown to the judges who will listen and judge each entry played. You will not be performing your song during the Northeast Invitational Country Showdown.
4. If your song has been co-written, you must include the co-writer's name and entry fee.

❖ Awards will be presented to the top performer in each category at the award show on Sunday.