2023 Parents’ Contract

**Goal: ALL court members and families will have an enjoyable time while representing London and the London Strawberry Festival!**

Competition

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| 1 | At least 1 parent/legal guardian must attend entire contestants meeting with contestant prior to competition. No adult other than parent/legal guardian will be accepted. Sign in & out is required. Contestants must agree to royalty contract. Contestant's parents must agree to parents' contract and royalty contract before a contestant may participate in the pageant. There will be no exceptions to meeting attendance. |
| 2 | Contestants must participate in stage practice, and on-stage presentation. Jr & Queen contestants must also compete in private interviews. |
| 3 | Those selected as royalty, must attend the crowning night meeting with a parent, the New Royalty Meeting and trainings the week following the London Strawberry Festival. |

Getting Started

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| 4 | Full cooperation is expected at all times from the royalty member, her parents, all family members & anyone acting on royalty member's behalf. Decisions of judges, contracts and info in folders are not open for debate. Be aware that no 2 years are alike & that revisions are made to the contracts. |
| 5 | *Drama, arguing, disrespect & poor sportsmanship will NOT BE TOLERATED from court members or adults. This is cause for immediate removal from the court. Always be respectful, polite & courteous to everyone.* |
| 6 | Parents/family members need to be aware of the guidelines in the royalty & parent contracts and abide by them. Do not ask for or expect exceptions to be made. |
| 7 | A meeting will be held with the royalty and their parents to acquaint them with expectations, answer questions about travel, luncheon, etiquette, etc. Attendance for entire meeting is **MANDATORY** for the royalty member and at least one parent/legal guardian (no other adult is acceptable). Failure to attend will result in removal from the court. Babies & their parents do not have to attend this meeting. Due to photos, dinner, meeting & activities, this meeting will end around 10PM. Disruptive individuals will be removed from this and all future meetings which will result in title loss & the next in line being notified. |
| 8 | There will be additional mandatory trainings, trips, and meetings periodically throughout the year that require the attendance of parent/guardian and/or court member. This applies to all courts, including Shortcake. Failure to attend the entire event, may result in immediate loss of title. Late arrival or leaving early from any mandatory event is not acceptable. You will be given a yearly schedule. Make necessary arrangements with employers and child care to be at entire event/meeting. In the event of a one-time true emergency, virtual attendance may be used or another adult over the age of 21 may attend in place of the parent. You will have plenty of time to request off work or arrange child care so these are not considered emergencies. |
| 9 | Custody issues are not excuses for missed events or meetings. Plan your participation and schedule accordingly. If parents are split and both have custody/visitation, information regarding the royalty member will be shared with both families unless prohibited by the legal system. If there are custody issues or restraining orders in which a court member cannot be with a parent/relative/other person, a copy of the legal paperwork must be provided. |
| 10 | If there are people who cannot to be around your child, detailed, notarized information must be provided. If the prohibited person is also connected to the court through a different royalty member, you will need to remove your child from the court or accept the fact that the person may be around your child as royalty members and their families are required to work together as a team. |
| 11 | Mandatory meetings and events are mandatory. Make necessary work, family, school and activity arrangements to arrive on time and remain for the entire meeting/event. You have plenty of time to make needed arrangements. |
| 12 | Parents & adults are strongly encouraged to attend all board meetings, the OFEA Convention & OFEA Spring meeting. Remember, royalty and minors are not permitted at the OFEA Convention or meetings. |
| 13 | Please, keep a calendar/planner up to date to avoid scheduling conflicts. Be sure to add all festival mandatory events & meetings. |
| 14 | As soon as you receive, school, athletic or other organizational calendars, share them with the queens’ director and compare the dates to the mandatory royalty or parent dates right away. If conflicts arise, immediately notify the queens’ director and make necessary arrangements. Do not expect London Strawberry to change our events/meetings to accommodate your other events. If something affects more than one royalty family, such as school events, we will try to make accommodations. |
| 15 | Notarized medical release, liability forms, contracts & all other paperwork must be returned to the Queens’ director before any member of royalty will be permitted to attend festivals or events & not later than July 15. A copy will be provided to any chaperone traveling with a royalty other than own daughter. We request that other family members and adults traveling with royalty provide a health statement for travel emergency purposes, especially if they have any known medical conditions. |
| 16 | **You will need to have paper checks available and access to cash app.** These will be needed right away and used to make event registrations, place your cape rental deposit and more. CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR ANYTHING. Money orders are frowned upon as they are expensive, difficult to replace if lost or event changes are made. Be sure to label checks & money orders on memo with who or what is covered by the payment. Cash app payments must indicate who is being covered by the payment and what event/items is being covered. |
| 17 | Take the time to enter all royalty, parent, Queens’s director, and board members info into your cell phone. |
| 18 | If your contact information changes, it is your responsibility to e-mail the corrected information to the queens’ director. Do not relay this information verbally or by paper note. If you do not get a reply, call the director. Be sure to also notify all royalty, parents, and board members immediately of changes. |
| 19 | An **active e-mail is required** for communication with the queens’ director and/or board members. If you do not have a computer/smartphone, go to the library, and set up a free account. Check it at least twice weekly. |
| 20 | Create a London Strawberry folder in your email and move all correspondence there so you can easily find it. |
| 21 | Sign up and become familiar with Memento for photos. You are required to upload travel photos here as proof of attendance within 7 days of event. This is a good back up in the event your phone is lost/damaged. |

Expectations

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| 22 | Parents of Royalty members give their consent for their daughter's photos to be used in publicity of the London Strawberry Festival. This includes, but is not limited, to use on the internet, newspapers, brochures/flyers/print media, and magazines. Be aware many events are broadcast live on TV and/or radio and have various photographers. Festivals and most royalty related events are considered public venues and therefore photo release forms are NOT required for use by the photographer/individual. Many photos will be posted on FACEBOOK & similar sites by directors, friends, royalty & family from our own and other events.  By federal law, the photographer (amateur or professional) holds the copyright on any photo. Photo release forms are not required in a public venue. |
| 23 | Court members will not be permitted to model lingerie, have any boudoir or other questionable photos taken (selfies, personal or professional). This applies even if the court member is any type of model or company ambassador (exp: photographer ambassador or fashion model). Any sexting, modeling or photos of this type will result in her title being passed to the next in line. |
| 24 | Do not make or have buttons or other items made using any other festival or event name or logo. |
| 25 | You must get permission from the board of directors before using the LSF name or logo on any items. A copyright &/or trademark is held on both. |
| 26 | Fundraising is required. Parents must be willing to assist with Queen’s fundraisers. If orders & money are collected, orders with the full payment, must be given to the Queen’s director or received in the London Strawberry Festival PO Box 434 by the due date for order to be placed. You will be given a list of fundraisers at the start of each year. |
| 27 | Parents/guardians are required to assist in securing ads/sponsorships/donations. |
| 28 | Permission must be obtained from the LSF board of directors before contacting anyone about donations, sponsorships, community service or other activities. This is to avoid duplicating contacts. |

Health & Safety

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| 29 | In the event of a long-term public health emergency or pandemic, adjustments may be made to this contract. |
| 30 | All local, state, and national health guidelines must always be followed. Keep masks available when you travel. |
| 31 | The health and safety of all participants is of top importance. If you are ill, please, notify director and stay home. If you become ill during an event, immediately notify the others and distance yourself. If a court member you are chaperoning becomes ill, help her the best you can and notify her parents immediately. |
| 32 | Royalty are very noticeable and draw a lot of attention. Be aware of the type of attention they are attracting. Many strangers, especially little kids, will want pictures with or to talk to “the princess.” Be sociable and polite with everyone. However, if you notice someone following you or making you uncomfortable, keep court close and move to a safer location such as the luncheon, on the float or inside vehicle. In extreme situations, you may request an escort from authorities to your vehicle to leave. |
| 33 | Don’t assume your daughter understands “stranger danger”. Talk to your daughter about staying with the chaperones or group and not going off alone for any reason. This is especially true if the sash has her name. |
| 34 | Make sure not to share personal info with others, even on name labels. Use the festival address instead. |
| 35 | Be cautious of what you post on social media. Posting exact travel plans, lets everyone know where you and other royalty will be. It also lets others know that your home may be unattended. |

Behavior

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| 36 | Adults must refrain from belittling/criticizing a court member or adult even jokingly. Adults must be respectful to everyone involved and realize that no child/court member/parent is above others. |
| 37 | Any court member, regardless of age, who is arguing, pouting, whining, or crying, will be required to remove title and leave the event without attendance credit. Repeated occurrences will result in loss of title. |
| 38 | Adults being uncooperative, disrespectful, argumentative, causing drama, or disruptions, will be asked to leave and will be removed if necessary. Any such adults will be banned from chaperoning any event or attending meetings. Parental behavior may result in loss of daughter’s title. |
| 39 | Any actions, photos, or statements (verbal, printed or posted, including internet) that are detrimental to the London Strawberry Festival made by family or anyone acting on the royalty member's behalf will not be tolerated and will result in loss of title. |
| 40 | All adults must refrain from the use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and any form of smoking when around or escorting royalty. |
| 41 | The use of profanity, inappropriate comments/gestures, ethnic/racial jokes/slurs is prohibited when escorting royalty or representing the London Strawberry Festival in anyway. |
| 42 | The use of profanity, inappropriate comments/ gestures, ethnic/racial jokes/slurs is prohibited at any board or royalty meeting and when communicating with any board member, royalty, parent, or other individual/group, either in person or by written/electronic forms. |
| 43 | Please, be aware of the language, photos, and content you are posting on all social media outlets, especially in regard to your daughter or the London Strawberry Festival. Be sure that any posts you make involving the London Strawberry Festival or royalty are not in the same social media stream with any adult content. |
| 44 | Problems/conflicts between royalty members, families and adults should be left at home and only discussed with the Queens' director if a private resolution cannot be reached. Gossip is to be avoided. This may result in removal of daughter from the court or banning of the adult or royalty member at events. |
| 45 | Inappropriate comments, gestures, or profanity to any member of the board, court, or others while at event or representing the London Strawberry Festival, either as a court parent/chaperone/royalty member will not be tolerated & will require appearance before the board. |
| 46 | Any adult causing any scene or disruption at an event will be banned from travel. Problems during travel may result in the entire court being restricted to only festivals and events attended by the Queens Director. |

Travel Requirements

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| 47 | Parents must be willing and able to travel with their daughter as she represents the London Strawberry Festival at many other state wide festivals & events. Royalty will be required to participate in other promotional activities representing the London Strawberry Festival such as pageants, luncheons, parades, speaking engagements, interviews, expos, community service, fundraising, etc. Most of these events/festivals will be on Friday, Saturday, & Sunday. May through October are very busy months. There will be some events in the winter, especially around the holidays. There are events that are restricted to specific court members, meaning not all members will be permitted to attend. |
| 48 | The queens' director has the right to refuse to let royalty, chaperone, or family member participate in any parade, luncheon, or event due to dress code violations/appearance, inappropriate behavior, attitude or illness. This includes wrinkled, dirty, or unkempt appearance, bad breath, and body odor. Royalty must look professional and always well put together. Adults must be neat and appropriately dressed. |
|  | The queens' director has the right to refuse to let royalty to participate in any parade, luncheon or event due to dress code violations/appearance, inappropriate behavior, attitude or illness. |
| 49 | All royalty, except the queen, must have travel requirements met by January 1, keeping in mind all close events will be over by this time. The queen must have 20 events, including 10 luncheon parade combinations must be completed by January 1. All 30 events must be complete by June 10. |
| 50 | The Queen must participate in 30 events, including at least 15 luncheon & parade combinations. Most of these should be OFEA events. The Queen is expected to attend the luncheon, other planned events, participate in the parade, and speak on stage. |
| 51 | The queen first & second attendants must attend 15 events, including at least 7 luncheon & parade combinations. Most of these should be OFEA events. |
| 52 | The Jr. Queen must participate in 15 events, including at least 5 luncheon & parade combinations. Most of these should be OFEA events. |
| 53 | Young Miss, Little Miss; Jr, Young & Little attendants are required to attend 7 events by January 1, including at least 1 luncheon & parade combination prior to October. |
| 54 | Miss Shortcake is required, to attend at least 3 of the following events: Any London parade, London Old Fashioned Christmas, London Arts Festival, London First Fridays, Safety Expo, Ox Roast, West Jefferson Christmas, West Jefferson 4th of July, Plain City Steam Show, Plain City 4th of July, Christmas Under the Clock, Relay for Life, South Vienna Corn Festival, Mt Sterling Summer Jam, South Charleston Heritage Days. Attending the Ox Roast luncheon is strongly encouraged so she knows what to expect at our luncheon. Special written/e-mail permission from the Queens' director must be obtained to attend any other event (not encouraged). She is not required to contribute to the gift bags. Riding on the float will be at the discretion of the Queens' Director. |
| 55 | Court members are expected to participate in parades, not just attend luncheons or walk around. Be social and make friends with other courts. Members may get credit for an event without participating in a parade by permission only. |
| 56 | Jr. & Miss courts may travel with other London Strawberry families on an occasional basis. Little & Young courts must travel with a parent/guardian or one of three people specified by the parent for entire year (only 1 can be unrelated). If any problem or issue occurs during travel without parent, this privilege will be immediately revoked. |
| 57 | Parents of anyone riding on the float in an event are responsible for making sure royalty members have their name signs, are appropriately dressed with title and for helping with any float set up, tear down or decorating required for the event. Do not "drop off & run.” Royalty may be suspended from riding float. |
| 58 | Parents need to take turns providing a case of water and ice for the court at parades, especially when the float is being used. |
| 59 | Travel expenses (meals, gas/mileage, rooms, souvenirs, etc.) are the responsibility of your family. |
| 60 | Parents need to contact director at least 5 days prior to event, not last second, for location & event specifics. |
| 61 | Awards (ribbons, cash, trophies, or other items) from other events given to the festival will remain property of the London Strawberry Festival and must be given to the Queens' director immediately. Trophies/plaques may sometimes be given to the highest-ranking court member in attendance. Monetary awards will be applied to the Queens' program. If an individual award (spirit, costume, congeniality, etc.) is presented, the royalty member may keep it, but must notify the Queens' director. |
| 62 | All royalty, except babies, are required to purchase magnetic signs. These will be ordered by the Queens' director only. Payment must be made at the first meeting. New signs will be ordered every year, even when a court member is repeating the same title. This is to keep signs looking clean, fresh, and matching. |

Appearance/Dress Code

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| 63 | Royalty members will need to have at least 1 floor length formal. Cooler events require the purchase black slacks, red or white sweater/blouse and the purchase/rental of a white cape. These items will be selected together. You will be given the cost of the cape & all capes will be ordered/made by the same person. Money will be due by August 1. You will not be permitted to attend cool weather events, typically September through April without a cape. Some capes are available to rent. |
| 64 | Adults & anyone traveling with the royalty, chaperoning, or driving in the parade must dress nicely. No cut offs or short shorts are permitted. Avoid clothes that are revealing in any way. Avoid clothes with inappropriate sayings, profanity, or references to drugs or alcohol. The queens' director has the right to refuse to let anyone, including adults & siblings participate in any parade, luncheon, or event due to dress code violations/appearance, inappropriate behavior, or illness. It is preferred that festival travel shirts be purchased and worn by adults traveling with royalty. |
| 65 | Adults who have tattoos with profanity, vulgarity, or inappropriate pictures, need to cover them when chaperoning in a luncheon. |

Invitations & Registrations

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| 66 | All festival/event registrations and contact with other festivals/events must be made through the Queen's director. Individual families are not permitted to submit registrations or contact other events directly. Registration and travel guidelines of hosting event must be followed. No exceptions. |
| 67 | All invitations received to another event/festival belong to the London Strawberry Festival and must be given to the Queens' director immediately. Invitations are not to be kept for an individual. |
| 68 | Events, meetings & deadlines are posted on the web site. It is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to check the site & meet the deadlines. The Queens’ director is not responsible for calling you or for reminding you of deadlines, meetings or events. The Queens' director will rarely notify you directly of upcoming events. Occasionally e-mail, phone & printed lists may be used. If you miss the posted deadline, you will not be permitted to attend the luncheon or parade. **LATE REGISTRATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**  Payment must be to director by 9PM on the day of the London Strawberry Royalty posted deadline via check, money order or cash app. |
| 69 | Check the web site weekly for updates, any changes and before leaving for an event or meeting. [www.londonstrawberryfestival.com](file:///C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\Administrator\My%20Documents\Queens%202011-2012\) Hover on Royalty then click Royalty schedules/deadlines from dropdown. Many events limit the number of chaperones permitted so not everyone will be able to attend. Take the time to check the website, email & texts BEFORE calling director. Queens’ director must look up information just like you do. Directors do not have time to respond to everyone individually. It is YOUR responsibility to READ communications & respond. |
| 70 | Parents are expected to serve as chaperones at events. Chaperones MUST PAY to attend luncheon, even if you do not eat, as most festivals have space limitations. You may wait outside & not pay if there is at least 1 London Strawberry chaperone inside the luncheon. Check with other court parents before registering your daughter to be sure there is a chaperone. Sometimes organizers will invite unpaid chaperones into the luncheon. In this situation, it is ok to go in. If an event does not permit chaperones in the luncheon, the chaperone must remain on the festival grounds, nearby and be available by phone for emergencies. |
| 71 | Event fees always need to be paid in advance. Checks made payable to the hosting event must be to the Queens' director by the set deadline no later than 9PM. Do not expect the Queens’ director or festival to cover the fees for you. NO CASH. Registration fees are non-refundable after they have been mailed. Reservations will not be made without payment. If the royalty member registered for the free meal is a no show, she will be billed for the cost of the meal. |
| 72 | If a check is returned for any item or event, you will not be permitted to register for any other event, including our own luncheon & parade, until the check and all associated fees have been paid. After 2 NSF items, no other checks will be accepted; money orders made payable to the London Strawberry Festival or cash app will be required. There will be a $35 fee charged by London Strawberry Festival on all returned checks. Host festivals may charge NSF fees. |
| 73 | If the Queen/person taking free meal spot is a no show at 2 events, she will be required to give a $35 deposit to the London Strawberry Festival before she will be permitted to register for future events. |
| 74 | The Strawberry Festival does not pay registration fees. A few parades charge entry fees. If court members wish to attend events requiring entry fees, it is up to the parents to pay these fees. Do not ask director or London Strawberry Festival to advance fees, so plan ahead. |

Transportation

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| 75 | Anyone transporting royalty to or from events or driving in a parade, must be 21 or older, have a valid driver’s license & current insurance. |
| 76 | Members’ parents are responsible for obtaining/providing appropriate transportation to and from an event or festival and for parades. Coordinate with the Queens' director for number of royalty members attending, as all court members must ride together in a parade, using 1 vehicle. Vehicles are not to be decorated with paint or chalk. No one may ride on hood or roof without sunroof/t-roof. |
| 77 | Driver has the authority to move any court member from the float, convertible or sun/t-roof to the interior of the vehicle due inappropriate behavior, fear/crying or safety issues for the remainder of the parade. A written/signed or emailed account of why the court member was moved must be provided to the royalty director within 48 hours. This will be shared with parent of the court member moved. Other court members may be asked about the situation. |
| 78 | Drivers must refrain from texting while driving & any form of impaired driving. Any adult with convictions for impaired driving will not be permitted to transport royalty. |
| 79 | When pulling the float, no one is to be sitting in the back of the pick up or having the back hatch of any style vehicle open. A spotter may in the vehicle watching the float, window may be open but not hatch. |
| 80 | Driver must have a fire extinguisher, first aid kit, and emergency forms within easy reach. Court member should have emergency items such as inhaler or epi pen in sash pocket. |
| 81 | Drivers must have required permission forms and copies of health forms with them for anyone not in his/her immediate family. Emergency items such as epi pens & inhalers must be available. |
| 82 | In the event of a vehicle breakdown, emergency or extreme weather/road conditions, immediately insure the safety of everyone, then contact Queens director and all parents of anyone with you. |

Completing Reign

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| 83 | Parents are required assist in the shortcake tent and information booth. |
| 84 | All parents must assist in recruiting volunteers for the info booth, shortcake tent & beer tent. |
| 85 | All court parents/guardians, and volunteers 18 & over will be required to submit their social security number to the City of London for a felony warrant & sexual offender background check. All parents, court members, and volunteers must abide by regulations imposed by laws/ordnances/government. |
| 86 | All parents and interested adults are expected to assist with the festival operations during the royalty member's year of reign and are invited to attend the LSF Board meetings. |
| 87 | All parents are required to actively serve on at least one festival operational committee during daughter’s year of reign. |
| 88 | The Queen’s parents will be given a parents pass-down book. Parents are responsible for making updates in it and returning it by the date specified at or near the end of your daughter’s reign. An electronic copy of additions made must be given to the queens’ director by e-mail, cd or flash drive. |
| 89 | Each royalty member, except babies or shortcake not attending luncheon, must contribute a minimum of 3 items for luncheon door prizes. Items do not have to be expensive. Shortcakes that wish to attend luncheon must contribute door prizes. |
| 90 | Each royalty member, except babies and shortcake, must contribute an item for the gift bags. Items do not have to be expensive. Individually wrapped candy is fine. Plan for 150 gift bags. |
| 91 | Court families will decide together if they are giving gifts to the incoming court. |
| 92 | It is up to the individual court member if providing gifts to other court members. However, if you choose to only give a gift to selected court members, do it privately outside of the festival or luncheon to avoid hurt feelings. If you give a gift to all court members, it is ok to give these during the luncheon. |
| 93 | Parents & family members need to assist with our luncheon. Duties include guest check in, selling of charms and buttons, set up, preparation & serving of meal and clean up. This does not apply to baby parents. |
| 94 | Parents and royalty are expected to assist with recruitment of new royalty contestants. This may include visiting various events and schools to distribute information. |
| 95 | Should a member quit or be required to relinquish title during reign, the tiara/crown, sash and any items, including pass down items, presented at crowning must be returned within 15 days to the queens’ director to be passed to the next in line. Current replacement cost of the sash must be paid. Pins & other items collected during travels may be retained. |
| 96 | Any royalty member that does not successfully complete her reign for any reason, including quitting, contract infractions or participating in another festival pageant, will not be permitted to compete in any future London Strawberry Festival Pageant. |
| 97 | The family will be held responsible and no one from the family will be permitted to compete/participate until all items received at crowning have been returned or prize package cost is paid in full at current replacement cost. If 2 members from the same family relinquish their titles, even if during separate years, no one else from that family will be permitted to run in another London Strawberry Festival Pageant. |
| 98 | Those relinquishing title (either voluntarily or by removal) & family will not be permitted volunteer or handle any money for the festival or royalty for a minimum of 5 years. |
| 99 | Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the custodial parent/guardian to ensure that all festival & travel obligations are met. |

Misc.

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| 100 | Failure to follow these guidelines by any family member or anyone acting on the royalty member's behalf will result in the royalty member losing her title. |
| 101 | No one from a royalty family may compete/participate in events or future competitions until all fees incurred during the current or past years have been paid in full and all required items have been returned in good condition. |
| 102 | Scholarships are NO LONGER promised. All festival & royalty expenses must be covered and fundraising goals must be met in order for scholarships to be offered. If you do not participate in all fundraising events, the scholarship will be forfeited, even when offered. |
| 103 | When scholarships are offered, royalty member and parent will be notified after the festival. All fees must be paid, festival or pass-down items returned, fundraising and duties completed and festival items returned in order to receive a scholarship. |
| 104 | The judgment of the Queens' director is final in any and all conflicts involving the Queens' program. Rules/guidelines are not open for debate & apply to everyone. |
| 105 | This contract is not all inclusive. Decisions of the Queens' director and/or the London Strawberry Festival Board are final. |
| 106 | No two years are ever the same. Guidelines have changed from previous years. Do not expect things to be the same as in the past. |