

# 2021 Parents' Contract

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

## Getting Started

1	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.
2	<b><u>DRAMA, ARGUING &amp; POOR SPORTSMANSHIP WILL NOT BE TOLERATED from court members or adults. This is cause for immediate removal from the court. Always be respectful, polite &amp; courteous.</u></b>
3	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.
4	This contract is not all inclusive. Decisions of the Queens' director and/or the London Strawberry Festival Board are final.
5	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. 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.
6	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 <b><u>MANDATORY</u></b> 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.
7	Notarized medical release, liability forms, contracts & all other paperwork must be returned to the Queen chairperson 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.
8	You will need to have paper checks available. These will be used to make event registrations, place your cape rental deposit and more. <b>CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR ANYTHING.</b> Money orders are frowned upon as they are expensive, difficult to replace if lost or event changes are made.
9	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 will be required. There will be a \$35 fee charged by London Strawberry Festival on all returned checks.
10	Host festivals may charge NSF fees. These fees and checks must be covered before any additional event registrations may be made. If we are notified by a host festival of unresolved NSF issues, you will be required to use money orders.

## Appearance/Dress Code

11	The queens' director has the right to refuse to let royalty participate in any parade, luncheon or event due to dress code violations/appearance, inappropriate behavior or illness. This includes wrinkled, dirty or unkempt appearance, bad breath and body odor. Royalty must look professional and well put together at all times.
12	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.
13	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.
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## Travel

14	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 expected 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. All royalty, except the queen must have travel requirements met by Jan. 1, keeping in mind all of the close events will be over by this time. The queen must have 20 events, including 10 luncheon parade combinations must be completed by Jan 1. All 30 events must be complete by June 10.
15	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.
16	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.
17	The queen first & second attendants must attend 15 events, including at least 7 luncheon & parade combinations. Most of these should be OFEA events.
18	The Jr. Queen must participate in 15 events, including at least 5 luncheon & parade combinations. Most of these should be OFEA events.
19	Young Miss, Little Miss; Jr, Young & Little attendants are required to attend 7 events, including at least 1 luncheon & parade combination prior to October.
20	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.
21	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.
22	Shortcake is not required to travel, however, if she wishes to attend the luncheon or do a window, she must attend a minimum of 3 events; parental attendance is required at mandatory meetings & must comply with all contracts & guidelines. If the shortcake chooses not to travel or parent does not attend mandatory meetings, she will not be permitted to attend luncheon, do a window or ride the float in the final parade.
23	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.
24	Parents need to take turns providing a case of water and ice for the court at parades, especially when the float is being used.
25	Travel expenses (meals, gas/mileage, rooms, souvenirs, etc.) are the responsibility of your family.
26	Parents need to contact director at least 3 days prior to event, not last second, for location & event specifics.
27	Parents are expected to serve as chaperones at events. There must be at least 1 adult chaperone at every event, including inside luncheon, regardless of the age of the court members.
28	Chaperones MUST PAY to attend luncheon, even if you do not eat, as most festivals have space limitations. You may wait outside & not pay as long as there is at least 1 London Strawberry chaperone inside the luncheon. Sometimes organizers will invite unpaid chaperones into the luncheon. In this situation, it is ok to go in.
29	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.

30	Events, meetings & deadlines are posted on the web site. It is <b>YOUR RESPONSIBILITY</b> 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. <b>LATE REGISTRATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.</b> Payment must be to director by 9PM on the day of the deadline.
31	Check the web site weekly for updates, any changes and before leaving for an event or meeting. <a href="http://www.londonstrawberryfestival.com">www.londonstrawberryfestival.com</a> 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 has to 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.
32	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.
33	If the Queen (free meal spot) is a no show at 2 events, she will be required to give a \$25 deposit to the London Strawberry Festival before she will be permitted to register for future events.
34	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.
35	The Strawberry Festival does not pay registration fees. A few parades charge entry fees & therefore are not required to attend. 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.
36	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.
37	All royalty, except babies & shortcakes that don't travel, 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.
38	An <b>active e-mail is required</b> for communication with the queens' director and/or board members. If you do not have a computer, go to the library and set up a free account. Check it at least twice weekly.
39	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.
40	Custody issues are not excuses for missed events or meetings. Plan your competition/participation and schedule accordingly. The festival is not responsible for problems resulting from a change in custody or visitations. If there are custody issues in which a court member cannot be with a parent/relative or other person, a copy of the legal paperwork must be provided. If there are people who are not to be around your child, detailed, notarized information must be provided. 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 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.
41	There are some mandatory meetings throughout the year. Make arrangements to be on time and attend the entire meeting, usually about 2 hours. The court members also have some mandatory events in which they must also arrive on time and stay for the entire event.

### Misc.

42	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
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	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.
43	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. Fundraising goals must be met in order to receive scholarships. If you do not participate in all fundraising events, the scholarship will be forfeited.
44	Parents/guardians are required to assist in securing ads/sponsorships/donations by contacting and following up with at least 5 different businesses.
45	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.
46	Parents are required assist in the shortcake tent and information booth.
47	All parents must assist in recruiting volunteers for the info booth, shortcake tent & beer tent.
48	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.
49	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.
50	All parents are required to actively serve on at least one festival operational committee during daughter's year of reign.
51	Do not make or have buttons or other items made using any other festival or event name or logo.
52	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.
53	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.
54	When scholarships are offered, royalty member must provide her social security number to the Queens' director in order to receive scholarship. Girls failing to provide their social security number will forfeit her scholarship. Checks will be available 2 weeks following the festival for pick up by the court member. This is to ensure that all duties are complete & all festival items are returned to the festival. Royalty member or parent/guardian must pick up and sign for receipt of scholarship no later than August 31 or monetary award will be forfeited. Babies & shortcakes do not receive scholarships.
55	The Queen's parents will be given a parents pass-down book. Parents are responsible for making updates in it and turning it over to the new Queen's parents at the end of their daughter's reign, either on stage immediately after crowning or at the new royalty meeting. It may also be given to the queens' director before the new royalty meeting. An electronic copy of additions made must be given to the queens' director by e-mail, cd or flash drive before scholarship will be presented.
56	Each royalty member, except babies or shortcakes not attending luncheon, must contribute a minimum of 3 items for luncheon door prizes and an item for each gift bag. Items do not have to be expensive. Individually wrapped candy is fine. Plan for 150 gift bags. Shortcakes that have traveled & wish to attend luncheon must contribute door prizes but are not required to contribute to the gift bags.
57	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.
58	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.
59	Parents and royalty are expected to assist with recruitment of new royalty contestants. This may include visiting various events and schools to distribute information.

### Expectations & Behavior

60	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.
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61	Anyone transporting royalty, must have a valid driver's license & insurance.
62	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.
63	There will be 4-6 mandatory parent meetings during the year. The first meeting will be the week following crowning. There will be one in the fall, one in Jan. or Feb., one in the spring, & one just before the Strawberry Festival. Meetings will be scheduled as needed. Emergency meetings may also be called. Dates and times will be posted on the website under royalty schedules & deadlines. A missed mandatory meeting may result in loss of title.
64	Parents & adults are strongly encouraged to attend all board meetings, the OFEA Convention & OFEA Spring meeting.
65	The Contestant Meeting and New Royalty meeting will require at least 1 parent or legal guardian with the contestant/court member. No other adult may stand in for the parent/guardian. No exceptions. In the event the parent/legal guardian cannot attend other mandatory meetings/events written permission may be given for a specified adult to attend in place of the parent/guardian. This permission must be signed by the parent/legal guardian and given to the director <b>prior</b> to the mandatory meeting/event.
66	Adults must refrain from belittling/criticizing a court member, even jokingly. Adults must be respectful to everyone involved and realize that no child/court member is above others.
67	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. Adults causing disruptions or arguing will be asked to leave and may be removed if necessary. Any such adults will not be permitted to chaperone any event.
68	Any actions 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.
69	All adults must refrain from the use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco and any form of smoking when around or escorting royalty.
70	The use of profanity, inappropriate ethnic/racial jokes/slurs is prohibited when escorting royalty or representing the London Strawberry Festival in anyway.
71	The use of profanity, inappropriate ethnic/racial jokes/slurs is prohibited at any board or royalty meeting and when communicating with any board member either in person or by written/electronic forms.
72	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. Inappropriate comments, gestures, or profanity to any member of the board, court or others while at event either as a court parent or chaperone will not be tolerated & will require appearance before the board. This may result in removal of daughter from the court or banning of the adult or royalty member at events.
73	Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the custodial parent/guardian to ensure that all festival & travel obligations are met.
74	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.
75	This contract is not all inclusive. Decisions of the Queens' director are final.
76	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.
77	In the event of a long-term public health emergency or. pandemic, adjustments may be made to this contract.
78	All local, state, and national health guidelines must always be followed.