

London Strawberry Festival Royalty Contestant Guidelines

I. Mission and Representation

By choosing to compete for a position within the London Strawberry Royalty, contestants and their families commit to becoming visible, active ambassadors for the London Strawberry Festival.

- Finality of Terms: Royalty guidelines and contracts are non-negotiable. All documents must be reviewed thoroughly prior to competition.
- Parental Role: While parents/guardians serve as essential chaperones and drivers, all court members—regardless of age—must demonstrate the ability to bond independently with their fellow court members.
- Commitment: Participation is voluntary; however, those selected must demonstrate full commitment to the program, its rules, and all scheduled appearances.

II. Eligibility and Residency

Contestants must reside in Madison County, attend a Madison County school, or reside in one of the following counties: *Union, Franklin, Pickaway, Fayette, Greene, Clark, Champaign, Logan, Hardin, Shelby, Miami, Montgomery, Warren, Clinton, Highland, Ross, Fairfield, Licking, Delaware, or Marion*. Language: Contestants must be able to communicate fluently in English without the aid of an interpreter.

- Status: Contestants must be single, never married, never have had children, and never have lived with an unrelated partner.
- Conduct: Contestants must have no history of illegal activity or school expulsions.
- Exclusivity: Contestants may not hold any other festival title at the time of the pageant nor compete for another festival title during the year of their reign.
- Age Determination: Eligibility is based on the contestant's age as of June 1, 2026

III. Age Divisions and Crowning

<u>Division</u>	<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Crowning Details</u>
<u>Baby Divisions</u>	<u>0–6m, 7–12m, 13–18m, 19–36m</u>	<u>1 Girl & 1 Boy per sub-division</u>
<u>Sprouts</u>	<u>3-4 Years</u>	<u>1 Girl & 1 Boy</u>
<u>Shortcake</u>	<u>4–6 Years</u>	<u>1 Girl & 1 Boy</u>
<u>Little</u>	<u>7–9 Years</u>	<u>2 Girls</u>
<u>Young</u>	<u>10–12 Years</u>	<u>3 Girls</u>
<u>Junior Miss</u>	<u>13–15 Years</u>	<u>3 Girls</u>
<u>Miss Strawberry</u>	<u>16–18 Years</u>	<u>3 Girls</u>

IV. Mandatory Attendance and Deadlines

- Entry Deadline & MANDATORY Contestant Meeting: June 1, 2026, at 6:00 PM.
- Location: London City Hall, 20 S. Walnut St., London, OH 43140.
- Attendance: Shortcake through Miss divisions **MUST** attend the mandatory meeting with one parent/legal guardian. Baby and Sprout divisions are highly encouraged to attend.
- Rehearsal: Attendance at the Thursday morning stage practice is mandatory for Shortcake through Miss Failure to attend results in loss of points.
- Entry Fee: \$10.00 per division.

V. Competition Appearance and Conduct

- General: No visible tattoos or piercings (other than ears) are permitted. No dressing rooms are provided; arrive fully dressed.
- Shortcake, Little, & Young Miss: May wear long or short formal attire. Note: the stage is elevated and competition is on-stage only. Mr. Shortcake: May wear suits or dress slacks/shirts with a tie.
- Jr. Miss & Miss: * Interview: Professional attire required for private interviews (Wednesday). Times assigned at the June 1st meeting. * Stage: Full-length gowns. No see-through fabrics, bare midriffs, plunging necklines, or slits higher than 3 inches above the knee.
- Sportsmanship: All contestants and associates must show respect to festival representatives, judges, and fellow competitors. Failure to do so may result in disqualification.

Any questions and concerns may be sent to the royalty director:

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