UMB PAGEANTS - SEASON 6

OFFICIAL CONTESTANT GUIDELINES

Miss • Ms • Mrs • Elite Mrs

These Guidelines set out the principal rules and procedures applicable to contestants participating in UMB Pageants Season 6 **("Competition")**. All contestants are expected to read these Guidelines carefully and comply with them throughout the Competition.

By voluntarily choosing to participate in the voting process, all contestants acknowledge that they have read, understood, and agreed to abide by the voting guidelines, rules, and regulations set by UMB Pageants, ensuring a fair, transparent, and smooth voting experience for everyone.

1. Competition Overview

The Competition will be conducted in the following four Categories: Miss, Ms, Mrs and Elite Mrs. Contestants shall compete only within the Category in which they have been registered. Judged rankings and Category titles will be determined separately for each Category.

The Competition will comprise interviews, stage rounds, team assessment and public voting in accordance with the format set out below. The Semi-Finale is not an elimination round.

2. Competition Schedule

The current Competition schedule is set out below. Contestants must remain available for all scheduled activities and comply with the reporting times communicated by the Organiser.

Date	Activity	Judging Weight
18 December 2026	Arrival, orientation, official photoshoot and Sashing Ceremony	—
19 December 2026	Personal Interview	30%
20 December 2026	Rehearsals and Bollywood Night	—
21 December 2026	Semi-Finale, including the 30-second Opening Statement	25%
22 December 2026	Main-stage rehearsals	—
23 December 2026	Grand Finale: Cocktail Dress, Evening Gown, announcement of the Top 5 and Final Q&A	25% (including Final Q&A)
Throughout the Competition	Team Assessment and Code of Conduct	20%

The Organiser may make reasonable changes to the schedule where required for operational, safety or other legitimate reasons. Any revised schedule will be communicated to contestants as promptly as reasonably practicable. Contestants must follow the latest schedule notified by the Orgniser.

3. Judging Criteria and Scoring

The total judged score is 100%. The components and their respective weightages are:

- Personal Interview - 30%.
- Semi-Finale - 25%, including the 30-second Opening Statement.
- Team Assessment and Code of Conduct - 20%.
- Cocktail Dress Round - 10%.
- Evening Gown Round - 10%.
- Final Q&A - 5%.

The judging components will be assessed on the following broad parameters:

- Personal Interview: thought process, communication, values, personal story, self-awareness and authenticity.
- Semi-Finale: stage performance and overall presentation, including the Opening Statement.
- Cocktail Dress and Evening Gown Rounds: stage presence, confidence, posture, walk, expression, energy, elegance and composure.
- Final Q&A: ability to think clearly and respond meaningfully under pressure. Authentic and considered responses are preferred over memorised answers.
- Team Assessment and Code of Conduct: punctuality, cooperation, respect, compliance with reasonable instructions and conduct towards staff, artists, crew and fellow contestants.

Separate panels may be constituted for the Personal Interview, Semi-Finale and Grand Finale. The score for each round will be calculated by averaging the marks awarded by the judges on the relevant panel, using a consistent scoring scale. Weighted scores will be added to determine the cumulative judged score.

Judges will assess contestants independently. Public votes, social-media popularity, sponsorship, fundraising, family support or payments made by or on behalf of a contestant will not influence judged marks. Judges are required to disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest. A judge with a conflict shall not score the contestant concerned, and Organiser will take appropriate steps to ensure an impartial assessment.

The Team Assessment will be carried out by the Organiser's team/coordinators against the criteria stated above. Any adverse deduction affecting a contestant's eligibility or ranking will be recorded with reasons and communicated to the contestant, at least in summary form.

Judging records and individual deliberations may remain confidential to protect the integrity of the process. Organiser may, however, provide an explanation of the application of the

published criteria where a substantiated procedural concern is raised, without disclosing another contestant's confidential information.

4. **Selection of the Top 5**

All contestants who remain eligible to participate in their respective Categories may receive public votes. There will be no separate preliminary jury shortlist, including a Top 15 or Top 20 shortlist, for determining eligibility to receive public votes.

In each Category, the Top 5 will be selected as follows:

- One place will be awarded to the eligible contestant who receives the highest number of verified valid public votes in that Category at the close of voting. This contestant will be referred to as the "Fast-Track Contestant".
- The remaining four places will be awarded to the four contestants with the highest cumulative judged scores up to and including the Evening Gown Round, from among the other eligible contestants in that Category.

The Fast-Track Contestant will secure a place in the Top 5 but will not receive additional marks, a score uplift or any preference in the final judging. Once the Top 5 is announced, public votes will have no further role in determining the Winner or Runner-up positions.

The Winner and the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Runner-up in each Category will be determined exclusively on the basis of the total judged score, including the Final Q&A. All five finalists will be assessed on the same judging criteria and scoring basis.

The Top 5 announcement will not indicate the order of merit unless the Organiser announces the final placements after completion of the Final Q&A. Each finalist will receive the crown and sash corresponding to her final placement.

If a Fast-Track Contestant withdraws, is disqualified or otherwise becomes ineligible before the Top 5 is finalised, the fast-track place will pass to the next highest eligible contestant on the verified vote count. If no eligible valid vote remains, the place will be filled by the next highest cumulative judged score in that Category.

In the event of a tie in valid votes for a fast-track place, the contestant with the higher cumulative judged score up to and including the Evening Gown Round will be preferred. Any tie in judged scores will be resolved in the following order: (i) higher Personal Interview score; (ii) higher Semi-Finale score; (iii) higher Team Assessment and Code of Conduct score; (iv) higher Cocktail Dress score; (v) higher Evening Gown score; and (vi) higher Final Q&A score. If the tie remains, the independent head judge will make a reasoned decision based on the published judging criteria.

The People's Choice Award will be presented to the contestant with the highest verified valid vote total across all eligible contestants in all four Categories. This is a separate recognition

and will not carry additional judged marks or confer an advantage in determining the Category Winner or Runner-up positions.

5. Public Voting and Contestant Participation

Participation in public voting is entirely voluntary. No contestant is required to purchase votes, raise funds, solicit votes, promote the voting portal, achieve a vote target or procure purchases from family members, friends, sponsors or any other person.

A contestant will not be penalised, marked down, disadvantaged, excluded from a judged round or treated differently because she receives few or no votes, chooses not to promote voting or does not participate in fundraising. A contestant with no public votes will be assessed on precisely the same judging criteria as every other contestant.

Contestants may voluntarily share the official voting link. While doing so, contestants must:

- use only the official voting link and information published or approved by the Organiser;
- accurately explain the role of public voting and must not suggest that votes guarantee a crown, final placement or higher judged score;
- not pressure, threaten or mislead any person into purchasing votes;
- not offer or promise any prohibited reward or benefit in exchange for votes;
- not use bots, automated tools, paid click farms or any artificial means to generate votes; and
- not make false, misleading or defamatory statements about another contestant or attempt to interfere with another contestant's votes.

The voting window and detailed voting terms will be published by the Organiser. The presently notified closing time is 23 December 2026 at 1:00 p.m. IST. Only verified valid votes received within the notified voting window will be considered. Any live leaderboard is provisional and subject to final reconciliation and independent verification.

Public voting is an audience-engagement feature and is not a wager, bet or investment. Voters do not receive cash, prizes, cashback, gifts or other rewards based on the Competition result.

6. Detailed Public Voting Guidelines

Public voting is an audience-engagement feature of the Competition. Contestants must familiarise themselves with the procedure below. These provisions explain how voting is conducted, how votes are verified and the conduct expected of contestants in connection with

public voting. The detailed Voting Terms displayed on the official voting portal will also apply to voters.

6.1. Voting Period and Official Voting Portal

Voting will take place only through the Organiser's official voting portal at voteumbpageants.com or such replacement URL as the Organiser may formally notify. Unless a revised schedule is officially notified, voting will close on 23 December 2026 at 01:00 p.m. Indian Standard Time (IST).

Votes submitted outside the notified voting period will not be counted. Contestants should direct voters only to the official portal and must not circulate unofficial links, payment details or instructions.

6.2. Who May Vote

Members of the public may participate in paid voting, subject to applicable law and the terms of the payment service provider. The Organiser does not impose a separate minimum-age restriction under these Guidelines. Every voter must be authorised to use the payment method selected. A voter must obtain the permission of the cardholder or account holder before using another person's card, bank account, UPI ID, wallet or other payment instrument.

Employees of the Organiser, persons directly administering the voting system, the appointed auditor and members of any judging panel are not permitted to vote. The Organiser may take reasonable steps to identify and exclude votes cast in breach of this restriction.

6.3. Voting Process

- Access the official voting portal and select the relevant Category and contestant.
- Verify the contestant's name and Category before proceeding.
- Select the required vote quantity or an available vote bundle. The portal will display the number of votes and the total amount payable, inclusive of applicable taxes, before payment is authorised.
- Complete payment using a payment method made available through the Organiser's authorised payment service provider.
- A vote will be credited only after successful payment confirmation and successful mapping of the transaction to the selected contestant.
- Retain the transaction reference or payment receipt for any enquiry or complaint.

A payment that is pending, declined, failed, reversed or not successfully mapped to the selected contestant will not, by itself, constitute a valid vote. Where technically feasible, the portal or payment confirmation will confirm the number of votes credited.

6.4. Vote Price, Bundles and Purchase Limit

The base price is INR 100 (“Rupees One Hundred Only) per vote, inclusive of applicable GST. The Organiser may also make optional multiple vote bundles available. Before purchase, the portal will disclose the number of votes included in the bundle, the total amount payable inclusive of applicable taxes, any additional or bonus votes, if offered, and the effective price per vote. A voter may purchase a single vote; purchasing a bundle is not compulsory.

6.5. How Votes Affect the Competition

For each Category, the contestant with the highest number of verified valid votes at the close of voting will receive the Category’s Fast-Track place in the Top 5, subject to the eligibility and verification requirements in these Guidelines. The remaining four places in that Category will be determined by cumulative judged scores up to and including the Evening Gown Round.

The highest verified valid vote-getter across all eligible contestants in all four Categories will receive the separate People’s Choice Award. This Award does not confer a Category title, additional judging marks or an advantage in determining final placements.

Public votes do not add to a contestant’s judged score. After the Top 5 has been announced, votes will not influence the selection of the Winner or Runner-up. Final placements will be determined exclusively by the judges’ scores, including the Final Q&A. Contestants must not represent or imply that purchasing votes guarantees a crown, title, final placement or higher judging score.

6.6. Provisional Results, Verification and Audit

The voting portal will display a live leaderboard or running vote count for information. Any such display is provisional and may change because of delayed payment confirmation, duplicate transactions, payment reversals, chargebacks, fraud checks, technical reconciliation or audit adjustments. The final vote count verified by the Organiser will prevail.

Before announcing the Fast-Track Contestants and the People’s Choice Award, the Organizer will arrange independent verification of the final vote count. Verification may include payment-to-vote mapping, duplicate or reversed transactions, and material fraud alerts. The final verified count will prevail over any interim leaderboard, social-media post or provisional display.

6.7. Prohibited Voting Practices

The following practices are prohibited and may result in votes being held, excluded or reversed. They may also lead to disciplinary action against a contestant where she has participated in, encouraged, facilitated or knowingly benefited from the conduct:

- use of bots, scripts, automated voting tools, emulators, click farms or artificial traffic;

- use of stolen, unauthorised or fraudulently obtained payment instruments or accounts;
- creating or using false, duplicate or misleading identities or accounts to evade the purchase limit;
- payment manipulation, chargeback abuse or attempts to obtain votes without completing payment;
- hacking, tampering with, disrupting or interfering with the voting portal or vote records;
- fabricating, duplicating, deleting or altering vote records, or colluding to manipulate the result; and
- pressuring, threatening, misleading or offering an unauthorised benefit to a voter to secure votes.

The Organiser may place votes on hold, investigate, exclude or reverse votes where there are reasonable and recorded grounds to suspect fraud, unauthorised payment use, automation, technical duplication, circumvention of the purchase limit or another material irregularity. The same standards will be applied across all contestants. Votes will not be removed merely because a contestant has received a high number of votes.

Where practicable, the Organiser will notify an affected contestant of a material adjustment and provide a reasonable opportunity to submit relevant information. Notice may be delayed where it could compromise an investigation, system security or a legal obligation. The Organiser will maintain a record of material adjustments and the reasons for them.

6.8. Cancellations, Refunds and Payment Issues

Once successfully credited, a vote is final and cannot be withdrawn, transferred to another contestant, exchanged for cash or redeemed. Voters should check the contestant's name, Category and vote quantity before authorising payment.

A payment will be refunded to the original payment source where money has been debited but no votes have been credited because the transaction failed or remained incomplete; where a duplicate debit has occurred and duplicate votes have not validly been credited; where an amount has been collected for a transaction rejected because voting has closed; or where the Organiser cancels the relevant voting service before the votes are delivered.

If a contestant withdraws or is disqualified after a vote has been validly credited, the vote will ordinarily remain non-refundable because the voting service has been delivered. The vote will not be transferred to another contestant. This will not apply where a refund is required by mandatory law or the voting service was not delivered.

Refund requests should be submitted through the support email or link displayed on the official voting portal, together with the transaction reference, transaction date, amount and masked payment details. The Organiser will acknowledge a request within 48 hours and endeavour to resolve it within seven to fifteen (7-15) working days, subject to

bank and payment-provider processing timelines and any shorter statutory timeline that applies.

6.9. Technical Interruption or Suspension of Voting

If a material technical or security issue affects the voting portal, the Organiser may temporarily suspend voting while the issue is investigated and the system is restored. The Organiser will publish a notice on the voting portal and, where practicable, its official social-media channels, explaining the interruption and whether the closing time is affected.

If voting is suspended for a material period, the Organiser may extend the closing time by a period reasonably corresponding to the interruption. Any revised closing time will be published before voting resumes and will apply uniformly to all contestants. The Organiser will not selectively extend voting for one contestant.

If the system cannot be restored or the integrity of the vote count cannot reasonably be assured, the Organiser may use the last reliable and independently verifiable count where fair and technically supportable, exclude the affected voting component and apply the published judged-score process, or cancel the affected voting round and refund payments where the voting service has not been delivered. Any such decision will be based on objective reasons, applied consistently and communicated to affected contestants.

6.10. Privacy and Voter Information

Voter information will be collected and used for purposes such as processing payments, crediting votes, enforcing the purchase limit, preventing fraud, issuing receipts, resolving complaints and complying with law. The Organiser will publish a separate Privacy Notice explaining the information collected, purposes of use, service providers, retention, security safeguards and grievance contact.

Contestants must not seek, collect, publish or circulate voters' payment credentials, full card details, UPI PINs, passwords or other sensitive payment information. The Organiser will not display full payment details or other unnecessary personal information on a public leaderboard. Any public display of a voter identifier will be subject to the Privacy Notice and applicable law.

As these Guidelines do not impose a separate minimum-age restriction for voting, the Organiser will apply any child-specific data-protection requirements in force at the relevant time, including any applicable requirement for verifiable parental or guardian consent.

6.11. Voting Complaints and Queries

A voter may contact the Organiser through the support and grievance details displayed on the official voting portal in relation to a failed payment, missing or incorrectly credited votes, duplicate debit, incorrect contestant selection, suspected fraud, privacy concern

or technical malfunction. The voter should provide the transaction reference and relevant details, without sharing full payment credentials.

A contestant may raise a concern regarding a vote adjustment affecting her, suspected manipulation, the application of the published voting procedure or a material technical issue. The complaint should identify the issue and provide available supporting information. The Organiser will acknowledge complaints within 48 hours and endeavour to provide a reasoned response within fifteen (15) calendar days, or sooner where required by applicable law.

A complaint about a vote transaction should ordinarily be raised within seven (7) calendar days of the transaction or discovery of the issue. A complaint concerning a published voting result should ordinarily be raised within 48 hours of publication. These periods facilitate prompt review and do not restrict statutory consumer rights or remedies available under law.

The official voting portal will display the name and contact details of the designated support/grievance contact before voting opens. Contestants should refer voters to those published details rather than attempting to resolve payment disputes themselves.

7. Contestant Conduct and Responsibilities

Throughout the Competition, each contestant is expected to:

- attend all activities, rehearsals, interviews and events at the notified time and remain prepared for the scheduled programme;
- follow reasonable instructions issued by the Organiser, its coordinators, choreographers and event personnel, including instructions relating to safety and rehearsals;
- treat judges, coordinators, choreographers, make-up artists, hotel staff, crew, artists and fellow contestants with dignity and respect;
- maintain professional and respectful conduct during official activities and while representing the Competition;
- refrain from bullying, harassment, intimidation, threats, deliberate exclusion, defamatory allegations, malicious rumours or retaliation against any contestant or staff member;
- promptly and privately inform the designated Organiser contact if unwell, facing an emergency or feeling unsafe or uncomfortable;
- protect confidential backstage information, private personal data, unreleased results and security-sensitive information, without restricting the right to make a lawful complaint, report misconduct or seek legal advice; and
- comply with applicable laws and all reasonable event, venue, safety and security requirements.

Official photographs and videos may be used by the Organiser in accordance with the image and media consent obtained from the contestant and the terms of the contestant participation agreement. Contestants should review the scope and purpose of any such consent before providing it.

8. Breach of Guidelines and Disqualification

Depending on the nature and seriousness of a breach, the Organiser may issue a warning, require corrective action, impose a proportionate score deduction where permitted by the published judging criteria, suspend participation or disqualify a contestant.

Except where immediate action is reasonably necessary for safety, security or the proper conduct of the Competition, the contestant will be informed of the allegation and given a reasonable opportunity to respond before a decision is taken. Reasons for any material disciplinary action will be recorded.

Any disqualification for a proven breach of these Guidelines will apply irrespective of the contestant's vote count. A high number of public votes does not exempt a contestant from the eligibility requirements or Code of Conduct.

9. Winners and Runners-up

A Winner or Runner-up may be invited to represent the Organiser or participate in events, photoshoots, fashion weeks, media engagements and other platforms. Any obligations arising from such representation or engagement including duration, exclusivity, appearances, notice, remuneration or honorarium, travel and accommodation, image rights, intellectual property, confidentiality, termination and consequences of title forfeiture will be set out in a separate written Winner's Agreement, where applicable.

Contestants who are selected as Winners or Runners-up may be required to execute and comply with the applicable Winner's Agreement. No additional material obligation will arise solely from an unpublished policy.

10. Withdrawal and Participation Fee

The participation fee and the consequences of withdrawal will be governed by the separate contestant participation agreement. The applicable fee and refund or carry-forward terms will be communicated to the contestant before payment and will remain subject to applicable law and any mandatory refund rights.

11. Complaints and Communication

A contestant who wishes to raise a concern regarding eligibility, judging procedure, conflict of interest, conduct, vote adjustment or any other aspect of the Competition should contact the Organiser through the official communication channel notified to contestants. Complaints should identify the issue and provide relevant supporting information within a period of fifteen (15) days from receiving this guideline.

The Organiser will acknowledge and consider complaints in a fair and timely manner. A contestant may raise a bona fide concern without fear of retaliation. Nothing in these Guidelines prevents a contestant from reporting unlawful conduct or approaching a competent authority or court where a remedy is available under law.

12. General

The Organiser will endeavour to conduct the Competition fairly, consistently and in accordance with these Guidelines. Any amendment considered necessary for legal compliance, safety, security, fraud prevention or a genuine operational requirement will be communicated to affected contestants as promptly as reasonably practicable. No amendment will be applied selectively to disadvantage a particular contestant.

The decision of the judges will be final, subject to correction of a manifest calculation error, proven conflict of interest, fraud, procedural irregularity or breach of these Guidelines. Nothing in this provision excludes any remedy that cannot lawfully be excluded.

These Guidelines and the Competition will be governed by the laws of India. Subject to the jurisdiction of statutory authorities, consumer forums and courts that cannot be excluded by law, the courts at New Delhi will have jurisdiction over disputes arising out of these Guidelines.