

ACTING CHOPS

OFFICIAL COMPETITION HANDBOOK & RULES

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1. Purpose and Interpretation

1.1 The purpose of this Official Competition Handbook & Rules (the "Handbook") is to establish the rules, policies, procedures, and expectations governing participation in Acting Chops.

1.2 Acting Chops is intended to operate as a skill-based live podcast game show and performance competition. Contestants are evaluated by judges based on acting performance, response to a twist, and improvisational ability.

1.3 This Handbook is intended to promote fairness, transparency, safety, professionalism, and consistency. It does not replace any signed agreement between a contestant and Acting Chops. In the event of conflict, the signed agreement and any mandatory legal terms shall prevail unless otherwise stated by Acting Chops in writing.

1.4 Headings are for convenience only and do not limit interpretation. Singular includes plural, and plural includes singular, where the context requires.

2. Definitions

2.1 "Acting Chops" means the live podcast game show, competition format, production, website, brand, related media, and its producers, owners, representatives, employees, contractors, volunteers, and authorized agents.

2.2 "Contestant" means any person selected, shortlisted, invited, substituted, or otherwise permitted to participate in any Acting Chops competition, rehearsal, taping, livestream, audition, interview, promotional activity, or related production activity.

2.3 "Producer" means the individual or entity responsible for producing, managing, controlling, and administering Acting Chops.

2.4 "Judges" means the individuals appointed by Acting Chops to evaluate contestant performances.

2.5 "Episode" means one live event, recording session, livestream, or competition installment of Acting Chops.

2.6 "Twist" means any surprise prompt, instruction, change, obstacle, line, prop, genre shift, character adjustment, or other creative challenge introduced by Acting Chops during a performance or round.

2.7 "Improvisation" means spontaneous acting, adaptation, dialogue, physical choice, or performance response created by a contestant without full prior preparation.

2.8 "Rules" means this Handbook, contestant agreements, event instructions, production guidelines, release forms, and any written or verbal directions issued by Acting Chops during production.

3. Eligibility

3.1 Unless otherwise approved in writing by Acting Chops, contestants must be at least eighteen (18) years of age at the time of participation.

3.2 Contestants must be legally permitted to participate in a live entertainment production in British Columbia and must be available to attend all required production activities.

3.3 Acting Chops may accept contestants of all acting experience levels, including emerging performers, students, working actors, theatre performers, improvisers, comedians, and other performers deemed suitable by the Producer.

3.4 Acting Chops may deny eligibility to any applicant where participation would create a conflict of interest, safety concern, legal issue, production concern, or reputational concern.

3.5 Acting Chops may require proof of age, identity, availability, work eligibility, or other information reasonably required to verify eligibility.

3.6 Employees, officers, directors, immediate family members, or household members of Acting Chops, its major sponsors, or production partners may be restricted from competing unless approved in writing by the Producer.

4. Application and Selection

4.1 Submission of an application does not guarantee selection, audition, invitation, appearance, compensation, or participation.

4.2 Acting Chops may review applications based on performance experience, personality, availability, diversity of casting, suitability for the format, production needs, and any other factors determined by the Producer.

4.3 Acting Chops may request interviews, self-tapes, reels, headshots, resumes, social media links, references, or additional materials.

4.4 Acting Chops may maintain a waiting list and may replace contestants at any time before or during production if a selected contestant becomes unavailable, ineligible, or unsuitable.

4.5 Applicants must provide truthful and accurate information. False, misleading, incomplete, or omitted information may result in disqualification or removal.

5. Participation Requirements

5.1 Contestants must attend required call times, orientations, rehearsals, briefings, media activities, interviews, and production meetings.

5.2 Contestants must sign all required releases, waivers, confidentiality agreements, media releases, and contestant agreements before participating.

5.3 Contestants are responsible for arriving prepared, professional, sober, and able to perform.

5.4 Contestants must comply with venue rules, safety instructions, production directions, and all reasonable requests from Acting Chops staff.

5.5 Acting Chops may require contestants to refrain from disclosing confidential competition details before an episode airs or is publicly released.

6. Competition Format

6.1 The standard Acting Chops episode format begins with eight (8) contestants. Acting Chops reserves the right to vary the number of contestants for production, scheduling, safety, or creative reasons.

6.2 Contestants compete through one or more performance rounds. Scores determine advancement, elimination, and the weekly winner.

6.3 The standard advancement structure is: eight (8) actors compete; four (4) advance; two (2) advance; one (1) weekly champion or victor is selected.

6.4 Weekly champions may advance to a Season Championship, Grand Finale, or other final competition event as determined by Acting Chops.

6.5 Acting Chops may modify the number of rounds, format, prompts, challenges, judges, voting process, scoring procedures, or advancement rules where reasonably necessary.

7. Performance Materials and Time Limits

7.1 Contestants may be required to prepare a scene, monologue, commercial, dialogue, character, or other performance material as instructed by Acting Chops.

7.2 Acting Chops may provide performance material or require contestants to provide their own material, subject to approval.

7.3 Performance time limits will be communicated before or during production. Exceeding a time limit may result in score reduction, interruption, or disqualification.

7.4 Contestants are responsible for ensuring that any original or third-party material they provide does not infringe copyright, violate privacy rights, or expose Acting Chops to legal claims.

7.5 Acting Chops may reject or require changes to material that is unsafe, discriminatory, defamatory, obscene, harassing, excessively offensive, legally risky, or unsuitable for production.

8. Twist and Improvisation Rules

8.1 The Twist is a core element of Acting Chops. Contestants must respond to unexpected changes, prompts, instructions, or creative challenges while continuing the performance.

8.2 A Twist may be introduced before, during, or after a prepared portion of a performance.

8.3 Contestants shall respond to the Twist in good faith and shall not refuse to participate unless safety, legal, or ethical concerns exist.

8.4 Improvisation will be judged based on commitment, adaptability, creativity, listening, character consistency, and ability to advance the performance.

8.5 Acting Chops may alter or cancel any Twist or improvisation challenge for safety, timing, technical, or production reasons.

9. Judging Criteria and Scoring

9.1 Each judge may award a maximum of ten (10) points per contestant performance.

9.2 The standard scoring categories are as follows: Performance - five (5) points; Twist - three (3) points; Improvisation - two (2) points.

9.3 Performance may include character commitment, emotional truth, listening, clarity, stage presence, preparation, timing, craft, and overall execution.

9.4 Twist may include adaptability, creativity, commitment to the challenge, ability to incorporate new information, and maintenance of performance quality under pressure.

9.5 Improvisation may include spontaneity, storytelling, acceptance, collaboration, comedic or dramatic instinct, and ability to remain present and engaged.

9.6 With three (3) judges, the maximum total score is thirty (30) points. If the number of judges changes, Acting Chops may adjust maximum scoring accordingly.

9.7 Judges may use decimals or whole numbers only if authorized by Acting Chops. Unless otherwise stated, scores should be recorded as whole numbers.

9.8 Judges decisions are final except in the case of a demonstrable scoring, arithmetic, or administrative error identified by Acting Chops.

10. Advancement, Elimination, and Tie-Breaks

10.1 Advancement is determined by total judge scores unless otherwise stated before the round begins.

10.2 Acting Chops may consider audience participation or audience reaction as a show element, but unless expressly announced, audience reaction is not a binding scoring category.

10.3 If a tie affects advancement, elimination, or championship outcome, Acting Chops may use a tie-break procedure.

10.4 The default tie-break procedure may be a Mystery Commercial Challenge, sudden-death scene, improv prompt, audience response component, judge deliberation, or other challenge selected by the Producer.

10.5 Acting Chops may resolve ties by judge vote, Producer decision, additional performance, or other fair method announced by the Producer.

11. Prizes and Awards

11.1 Prizes may include trophies, titles, sponsor prizes, merchandise, cash, gift cards, promotional opportunities, championship entry, or other benefits announced by Acting Chops.

11.2 Prizes are subject to availability, sponsor fulfillment, eligibility, and applicable laws.

11.3 Acting Chops may substitute a prize of equal or greater approximate value if a prize becomes unavailable.

11.4 Contestants are responsible for any taxes, reporting obligations, or personal costs associated with prizes, unless otherwise required by law.

11.5 Acting Chops makes no guarantee of employment, agency representation, casting opportunities, future work, or professional advancement.

12. Contestant Conduct

12.1 Contestants shall conduct themselves professionally at all times.

12.2 Prohibited conduct includes harassment, intimidation, discrimination, threats, violence, unsafe conduct, sabotage, tampering with production, intoxication, illegal drug use, theft, fraud, or conduct likely to bring Acting Chops into disrepute.

12.3 Contestants shall not interfere with another contestant performance, attempt to influence judges improperly, or disrupt production.

12.4 Acting Chops may issue warnings, deduct points, remove a contestant from a round, disqualify a contestant, or remove a contestant from the venue.

13. Props, Wardrobe, and Prohibited Items

13.1 Props must be approved by Acting Chops before use.

13.2 Prohibited items include real weapons, realistic weapons not approved by production, fire, smoke devices, hazardous materials, animals, liquids, food items, glass, sharp objects, illegal substances, or any item deemed unsafe.

13.3 Wardrobe must be appropriate for performance, safe for movement, and suitable for filming.

13.4 Acting Chops may require wardrobe changes or reject wardrobe that is unsafe, infringing, defamatory, discriminatory, excessively revealing, or visually unsuitable for production.

14. Audience Interaction and Live Event Rules

14.1 Acting Chops may include audience participation, audience prompts, reactions, voting, call-and-response elements, sponsor prize moments, or other live show components.

14.2 Contestants shall treat audience members respectfully and shall not target, harass, embarrass, or physically engage audience members without authorization.

14.3 Audience members may be photographed or recorded as part of the live podcast game show experience, subject to posted venue notices and ticket terms.

14.4 Acting Chops may remove any audience member whose conduct is disruptive, unsafe, abusive, or inconsistent with event rules.

15. Production, Filming, and Media Rights

15.1 Acting Chops may film, photograph, livestream, record, edit, reproduce, broadcast, distribute, exhibit, advertise, promote, and otherwise use contestant appearances and performances in any media now known or later developed.

15.2 Contestants acknowledge that filming may capture their name, likeness, image, voice, biography, statements, performance, and reactions.

15.3 Acting Chops may edit recorded materials at its discretion and is not required to include any contestant in final edited content.

15.4 Contestants shall not record backstage, judges, production materials, unreleased competition details, confidential documents, or other contestants without permission.

15.5 Contestants may be asked to participate in interviews, promotional clips, social media content, photography, or behind-the-scenes material.

16. Intellectual Property and Format Protection

16.1 Acting Chops owns or controls the Acting Chops name, logos, competition format, graphics, show structure, scoring format, segment titles, branding, website materials, recordings, edited episodes, promotional materials, and production elements.

16.2 Contestants retain ownership of pre-existing original performance material they created, subject to the rights granted to Acting Chops under signed agreements.

16.3 Contestants shall not copy, reproduce, license, exploit, or create a confusingly similar version of the Acting Chops format, branding, competition structure, or show materials without written permission.

16.4 Any ideas, suggestions, improvised content, phrases, or performance concepts voluntarily contributed during production may be used by Acting Chops in accordance with applicable agreements.

17. Privacy and Personal Information

17.1 Acting Chops may collect contestant personal information including name, contact information, age confirmation, biography, headshot, resume, links, availability, emergency contact, and application materials.

17.2 Personal information may be used for application review, contestant communication, production administration, legal compliance, publicity, and related business purposes.

17.3 Acting Chops will use reasonable efforts to safeguard personal information but contestants acknowledge that no system is completely secure.

17.4 Public-facing contestant information may include name, likeness, biography, social media handle, and performance clips, subject to signed agreements.

18. Safety, Health, and Venue Compliance

18.1 Contestants must follow all venue safety rules, production safety instructions, fire regulations, emergency procedures, and reasonable health protocols.

18.2 Contestants must inform production staff of any safety concern, injury, illness, accessibility need, or condition that may affect performance or participation.

18.3 Acting Chops may modify, delay, cancel, or stop a performance if safety concerns arise.

18.4 Contestants participate voluntarily and acknowledge that live performance may involve physical movement, stress, improvisation, bright lights, sound equipment, audience interaction, and production-related risks.

19. Disqualification and Removal

19.1 Acting Chops may disqualify or remove a contestant for breach of the Rules, failure to sign required documents, late arrival, false application information, unsafe conduct, harassment, intoxication, refusal to perform, cheating, production interference, or any conduct deemed harmful to the show.

19.2 Disqualification may result in loss of prizes, titles, future participation rights, and appearance opportunities.

19.3 Acting Chops is not liable for costs incurred by disqualified or removed contestants unless required by law.

20. Producer Authority and Rule Changes

20.1 The Producer has final authority to interpret, apply, modify, suspend, or amend these Rules as reasonably necessary.

20.2 Acting Chops may change schedules, venues, judges, hosts, sponsors, prizes, format elements, recording methods, scoring procedures, or production requirements where necessary for creative, legal, technical, safety, or business reasons.

20.3 Any Producer decision regarding eligibility, advancement, scoring procedure, disqualification, tie-breaks, and production operations is final and binding, subject to applicable law.

20.4 Acting Chops may issue written amendments, notices, or contestant instructions that form part of these Rules.

21. Dispute Resolution and Governing Law

21.1 These Rules shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the Province of British Columbia and the applicable federal laws of Canada.

21.2 Any dispute arising from participation in Acting Chops shall first be directed to the Producer in writing.

21.3 Acting Chops may require informal resolution, mediation, or another dispute resolution process before litigation, subject to applicable law and signed contestant agreements.

21.4 Any legal proceeding shall be brought in the courts of British Columbia unless the parties agree otherwise in writing.

22. Acknowledgement

22.1 By applying for, accepting selection to, attending, rehearsing for, appearing in, or participating in Acting Chops, each contestant acknowledges that they have read, understood, and agreed to comply with this Handbook and all related agreements.

22.2 Contestants acknowledge that failure to follow these Rules may result in disqualification, removal, loss of prizes, or other consequences determined by Acting Chops.

22.3 Contestants should obtain independent legal advice before signing any agreement if they have questions about their rights or obligations.

Schedule A - Scoring Matrix

The following scoring matrix is the standard scoring system for Acting Chops unless amended in writing by the Producer.

Category	Maximum Points	Primary Focus	Examples
Performance	5	Prepared acting craft	Character, emotional truth, listening, clarity, preparation, presence
Twist	3	Response to surprise challenge	Adaptability, commitment, creativity, incorporating new information
Improvisation	2	Spontaneous performance ability	Acceptance, storytelling, collaboration, timing, staying present
Total Per Judge	10	Overall score	Each judge awards up to 10 points
Total With Three Judges	30	Maximum episode score	Three judges x 10 points

Schedule B - Contestant Acknowledgement Form

Contestant Name: _____

Episode/Event Date: _____

I acknowledge that I have received, read, understood, and agree to comply with the Acting Chops Official Competition Handbook & Rules, Season One, Version 1.0, together with all applicable contestant agreements, releases, and written production instructions.

Contestant Signature: _____

Date: _____