



OFFICIAL RULES & GUIDELINES

2026 Competition • Produced by Zavage Z Puhductionz

ELIGIBILITY All Ages - Rappers & Singers	SCORING 60% Judges / 40% Audience
PERFORMANCE 3-4 Minutes	CONTESTANT FEE \$50 - Non-refundable*

*Refunded only if the event is cancelled by the organizer.

Jawn or Gone™ is Philadelphia's live rap and singing competition built around talent, stage presence, audience connection and competitive performance.

1. Eligibility

Jawn or Gone™ is an all-ages rap and singing competition. Eligible performers include rappers, singers, and performers who combine both. Contestants may perform original music or cover songs.

- Contestants under 18 must have a parent or legal guardian present to complete required documentation and remain with the minor during participation.
- Required Pennsylvania LLC-12 child-performer documentation must be completed in advance.
- Minor documentation must be provided at least 10 days before the applicable performance date so required processing can be completed.

2. Contestant Fee & Refund Policy

The official contestant fee is \$50 per contestant. Contestant fees are non-refundable if a contestant withdraws, fails to appear, loses a performance slot because of lateness, or is disqualified. If Jawn or Gone™ is cancelled by the organizer, the contestant fee will be refunded.

3. Auditions

Auditions will consist of a short live vocal or rap performance. Contestants may audition a cappella or with music played through Bluetooth. Registered contestants will receive audition location, arrival information, and other instructions. Selection at an audition allows the performer to advance to the competition.

4. Live Performance Requirements

Each contestant will receive approximately 3-4 minutes to perform. Original songs and covers are permitted. Performers are expected to keep material as clean and event-appropriate as reasonably possible. Profanity is permitted; however, event management may restrict material that is excessively graphic, threatening, discriminatory, sexually explicit, or otherwise unsuitable for the event environment.

5. Performance Music

Backing tracks for the November 6 competition must be submitted in advance. Contestants will receive the official submission email and instructions approximately one week before November 6. Tracks not submitted according to the provided instructions and deadline may not be accepted. This advance-submission rule applies to the live competition; auditions may be a cappella or use Bluetooth music.

6. Judging & Audience Voting

Each performance will be scored numerically. The official weighted result is 60% judges' score and 40% audience vote. The audience votes after the performance and before the judges provide their commentary.

- Judges score applicable criteria from 1-10.
- Criteria: raw talent, originality, stage presence, uniqueness, professionalism, commercial/marketing potential, crowd connection, and microphone technique.
- Songwriting may be considered as a bonus when applicable, particularly for contestants performing original material.

7. Conflicts of Interest

A judge must disclose a significant professional relationship with a contestant that could reasonably interfere with impartial judging. For that contestant, either the conflicted judge's score will be excluded and the remaining eligible judges' scores averaged, or the remaining judges may agree on an eligible replacement judge to score that contestant.

8. Competition & Battle Rounds

Advancing performers will compete through the Jawn or Gone™ rap/singing battle format. The competition will award 1st Place, 2nd Place, and 3rd Place. Specific prizes and sponsor-provided opportunities may be announced separately.

9. Tie-Break Procedure

If a tie affects advancement or final placement, the tied contestants will perform an additional performance. The audience vote from that additional performance will determine the winner of the tie-break.

10. Minor Contestants

Contestants under 18 are welcome. A parent or legal guardian must be present, complete and sign required contestant and media documentation, provide information needed for applicable LLC-12 processing, and remain with the minor during participation. Required minor paperwork must be provided at least 10 days before participation. Failure to complete required documentation may prevent the minor from participating.

11. Photography, Video & Media

Jawn or Gone™ is a filmed and photographed event. Current production plans include AP Photography for photography and Joker Flicks for video. Additional authorized media, including potential television/media coverage such as Philly TV, may also be present. Contestants - and a parent/legal guardian for minors - must sign the applicable media release permitting authorized use of their name, stage name, image, voice, performance, photographs, and event footage for Jawn or Gone™ and Zavage Z Puhductionz promotional, advertising, social-media, archival, and related event purposes.

12. Conduct, Safety & Weapons

Jawn or Gone™ maintains zero tolerance for serious behavioral problems and weapons. Prohibited conduct includes fighting, threats, harassment, intimidation, intentionally damaging property, interfering with another contestant's performance, threatening staff, judges or guests, possession of weapons, or behavior that creates a safety risk. Violations may result in immediate removal and/or disqualification without refund.

13. Arrival, Lateness & No-Shows

Contestants are expected to arrive by their assigned check-in/call time. If a contestant expects to be late, event staff must be notified in advance. A contestant who is more than 5 minutes late without calling/notifying event staff may lose the assigned performance slot. Loss of a slot for lateness or failure to appear does not qualify for a refund.

14. Acceptance of Rules

Registration and participation constitute agreement to follow the official Jawn or Gone™ Rules & Guidelines, event staff instructions, venue requirements, and applicable contestant documentation. Zavage Z Puhductionz reserves the right to make reasonable operational adjustments necessary for safety, scheduling, legal compliance, or fair administration of the competition. Material competition changes will be communicated to affected contestants.

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