

## **MICHIGAN LEATHER PRIDE CONTEST RULES**

### **CONTEST RULES**

1. There are no gender or sexual orientation requirements for any title, however each contestant must personally identify with the title and feel confident and comfortable in representing that community for a title year.
2. Contestants must be 21+ by the contest weekend and must consent to a criminal background check.
3. Producers retain the exclusive and unlimited right to reject any application for reasons including, but not limited to, violent or sex crime-related criminal history, past history of consent violations, inappropriate or excessive substance abuse on a regular basis, or past history of conduct unbecoming of an adult in a radical sex community.
4. Each of the five contests are composed of six elements, totalling 600 points (or 725 points for bootblack contestants), as laid out in the rubric below.
5. In order to win, a contestant must score at least 75%, even if running without competition.
6. Your behavior, attitude, and treatment of others is judged throughout the contest week and is included as a scored component; abusive behavior during the weekend can be grounds for dismissal by the producer.
7. A winning contestant will be required to host 4 events during their title year, one each quarter, of any kind at their discretion, as long as they are leather-oriented and represent the title and contest with integrity.
8. Winning contestants are not required to compete in any other contest at the regional, national, or international level, although they may at their own personal expense.
9. The interview portion of the contest is open to weekend attendees.
10. Contestant handlers are not allowed backstage during the Saturday night stage portion; the contest den daddy will provide support with dressing and getting ready to all contestants.
11. While this will not be checked or enforced in any way, contestants are strongly encouraged to not purchase completely new leather gear and to not go into debt in order to compete in this contest.
12. Contestants must provide an auction basket, with drop off on Friday evening.
13. The winning contestant for each title will receive a title sash, a back patch, and an equal portion of funds raised during the raffle and auction, split between all winning titleholders.
14. Consent-aware behavior from contestants and attendees is mandatory.

#### **ELEMENTS:**

##### **Friday Meet & Greet (all except bootblack): 50 points**

Contestants will mingle with attendees and the judges and staff, while selling tickets for a 50/50 raffle. Contestants will be judged on engagement with attendees, attitude, and demeanor. Auction basket will be judged within these points.

**Demo (all except bootblacks): 75 points**

One of the Saturday afternoon class sessions will be reserved for contestant demos, each lasting approximately 15-20 minutes. This can take whatever form the contestant wishes – it can be a lecture based quick class, a demonstration and lecture of a practical skill, or anything else, but it must have original content created by the contestant.

**Tech boot (bootblack only): 75 points**

Bootblack contestants will be given one boot to restore in person at the conclusion of the interviews. The contestant will have one hour to work on the tech boot, without assistance or questions to anyone else, observed by the judges.

**Stand time (bootblack only): 175 points**

Bootblack contestants will work open stand time on Friday night, during the meet and greet. Stands will be provided for two or fewer contestants. If three or more individuals compete in the same year, all contestants will be required to provide their own stand or work area.

**Saturday Panel Interview: 200 points**

Each contestant will have an open interview with the judging panel, lasting 10-15 minutes.

**Saturday Stage Hotwear: 50 points**

Contestants can wear any outfit or look that would be their more casual barwear look, a look for a party or dungeon, or a look for working a bootblack stand. The look should be unique to the contestant, express their authentic sexual selves, and demonstrate that care and attention was taken to putting it together. Actual leather is not required or scored more favorably. A pop question is asked while on stage, but it is unscored.

**Saturday Stage Speech: 125 points**

An on-stage speech by each contestant lasting 3 minutes, on any subject of their choice.

**Saturday Stage Formal wear: 50 points**

Contestants can wear any outfit or look that would be their more formal look, something that might be worn for a formal protocol dinner, a ceremony or ritual, or any other important event. The look should be unique to the contestant, express their authentic sexual selves, and demonstrate that care and attention was taken to putting it together. Actual leather is not required or scored more favorably. Contestants will wear this look while delivering their on-stage speech element.

**Weekend Attitude & Behavior: 50 points**

Contestants will be judged on their behavior and treatment of others, including their significant others and/or support helpers throughout the contest weekend.

I agree and affirm that I have read the contest rules and elements in their entirety and I agree to follow them. I also affirm that the information provided in my contestant application is true and complete. I consent to the Michigan Leather Pride Weekend producers running a criminal background check on me.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_