

MICHIGAN LEATHER PRIDE CONTEST RULES

CONTEST RULES

Updated September 2026

1. Michigan Leather Pride is composed of five titles: Sir, boy, Ms., Mx., and Bootblack. 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. The Sir title and the boy title compete and are judged separately. The Bootblack title is a technical and skill-oriented title; contestants are expected to already have technical skill and stand experience.
2. All contestants must be residents of the State of Michigan.
3. Contestants must be 21+ by the contest weekend and must consent to a criminal background check. Although references are requested from the contestant, contestants should expect that production staff or judges will be vetting contestants beyond the requested references.
4. 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. These examples are the most extreme examples of why an application may be rejected, but prior rude or abusive behavior to staff, judges, volunteers, or community members; lack of past relevant experience; or concerns raised during the vetting process are additional examples of reasons an application may be rejected.
5. 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.
6. In order to win, a contestant must score at least 80%, even if running without competition.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. Winning contestants are not required to compete in any other contest at the regional, national, or international level, although they may choose to do so at their own personal expense. Winning contestants may not compete in any other contest until after their stepdown/the end of their MLPW title year.
10. The interview portion of the contest is open to weekend attendees.
11. Contestant handlers are not allowed backstage during the Saturday night stage portion; the contest den daddy or mommy will provide support with dressing and getting ready to all contestants.
12. 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.

13. Contestants must provide an auction basket, with drop off on Friday evening, unless otherwise instructed by production staff.
14. 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.
15. 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. 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. Contests 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. I consent to having photographs of myself or my image used for weekend promotion, including online, social media, and print media.

Signature: _____

Legal Name: _____

Date: _____