



**Wisconsin Leather Pride  
Contestant and Titleholder  
Handbook**



# **Wisconsin Leather Pride Contestant & Titleholder Handbook**

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# Wisconsin Leather Pride Contestant & Titleholder Handbook

## Qualifications of Candidates

1. Must be at least 21 years old on the first day of the contest.
2. Must reside in the State of Wisconsin unless an exemption is approved in advance by the producers.
  - a. Exemptions *may* be granted if Wisconsin is the primary state in which the potential contestant attends Leather/kink/fetish events, and the potential contestant agrees to diligently represent the Wisconsin Leather/kink/fetish community to the best of their ability, promote Wisconsin Leather/kink/fetish events, and hold their contractually required events within the border of the State of Wisconsin.
3. Wisconsin Leather Pride is an inclusive and supportive organization and has no gender or sexual orientation requirements for any title.
  - a. Be aware that regional and international title tracks may have different requirements in these areas. If continuing along the chosen title track, one must conform to the next-level competition's qualifications. WLP is committed to working with any contest to advocate for improving the experience of underrepresented or marginalized people to reverse requirements rooted in prejudice.
4. May not hold any state, regional, national, or international title on the first day of the contest.
5. May not compete if they previously held the same title in Wisconsin, unless an exemption is approved in advance by the producers.
6. Must be willing and able to represent their respective Wisconsin Leather Pride title, if earned, throughout the twelve (12) month title year.
7. Must permit photographs, video, and audio recording during the contest weekend and on-stage for use by Wisconsin Leather Pride on its website, social media sites, promotional, marketing materials, and for other general purposes.
8. You must submit a fully completed and signed contestant application, photo release forms, contestant registration fee, and any other required documentation prior to 11:59 p.m. on October 1.
9. Each contestant must provide at least one (1) auction/raffle item to be used for fundraising purposes to benefit the WLP Titleholder Travel Fund. Items should be accompanied by a description of the item(s) including the approximate value.
10. All contestants must arrive at the contest location no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday of the contest weekend and agree to appear in person for all scheduled events during the Wisconsin Leather Pride weekend up to the completion of the Bruch on Sunday. Wisconsin Leather Pride titleholders will be required to be onsite until Sunday afternoon to attend the New Title Holder Business meeting immediately following the Brunch.

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## Expectations for Behavior for Contestants and Titleholders

1. It is the duty of each WLP titleholder to be a public ambassador for all Wisconsin Leather/kink/fetish communities, foremost of the community represented by their title. Honesty and integrity are always a priority, and contestants and titleholders should not misrepresent themselves or their accomplishments. Any affiliations, issues, or concerns that could reflect poorly on the individual contestants, titleholders, or Wisconsin Leather Pride must be divulged immediately.
  - a. Wisconsin Leather Pride reserves the right to investigate any claims regarding any contestant that could be potentially damaging to the reputation of both the contestant and Wisconsin Leather Pride. We reserve the right to make any determinations and decisions on how to proceed pending the results of any and all investigations.
2. Bigotry, racism, sexism, transphobia, homophobia, or any other discriminatory or prejudicial behavior has no place in Wisconsin Leather Pride or the greater Wisconsin Leather/kink/fetish community.
  - a. Deliberate or unapologetic behavior along these lines is grounds for immediate disqualification or stripping of the title.
  - b. It is the responsibility of *all* contestants and titleholders to educate themselves on appropriate behavior that shows respect to all people, with specific focus on marginalized people. Inclusiveness and respect are everyone's responsibility.
    - i. The producers of WLP are happy to *assist* with education and/or resources to comply with this duty. Please refer to them with any questions or concerns.
  - c. WLP understands that microaggressions accidentally occur even from the most diligent of people. Titleholders are expected to be open to behavioral corrections from those trying to help alleviate the burden from already burdened people. Sincerely apologetic behavior *accompanied by visible, active change* will be embraced and reinforced.
3. Contestants are required to attend all contest events and activities and must arrive on time. The detailed weekend schedule will be released one month prior to the event.
  - a. Contestants must arrive at the event space no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday and be checked in with event registration in time to attend the 5:00 p.m. contestant meeting where they will deliver their raffle items to designated staff.
  - b. Contestants should plan to stay until the conclusion of brunch on Sunday. Winning titleholders must attend the business meeting on Sunday afternoon.
4. Any contestant causing damage to any Wisconsin Leather Pride venues, inclusive of decorations and equipment, or any portion of the host hotel, including their own hotel room, will be immediately disqualified and may be subject to legal action. If legal action is pursued, Wisconsin Leather Pride will assist the venue and any owner of damaged property with any prosecution.

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5. Any contestant who is caught in the act of stealing or tampering with another person's property, which includes, but is not limited to, props, apparel, kits, supplies, or other possessions will be immediately disqualified, removed from the location of the competition, and denied access to the event.
6. Wisconsin Leather Pride does not tolerate the use, distribution, or possession of any illegal drugs by any Wisconsin Leather Pride competition contestant during the competition and event weekend. Any contestant found in violation of this rule will be immediately disqualified.
7. All contestants and titleholders are welcomed to enjoy social drinking and should be responsible with the consumption of alcoholic beverages. Becoming grossly intoxicated at any WLP event, including in host hotels or venues, or any event where a titleholder is representing WLP, may be grounds for disqualification and/or stripping of the title at the sole discretion of WLP leadership.
8. Driving under the influence of any substance, as defined by law, while a contestant or titleholder for any WLP title is absolutely prohibited and will result in disciplinary action, up to and including disqualification or stripping of the title.
9. Respectful and honest communication between titleholders and producers is required at all times.
10. Conflicts are to be resolved in private and not through social media.
11. An active presence on social media is highly encouraged. Behavior, speech, and how the contestant or titleholder represents themselves and WLP is expected to conform to the same standards expected from in-person interactions.
12. WLP understands that a large portion of our community exists because of radical sexual behavior. WLP does not have explicit restrictions on any consensual sexual behavior between adults that occurs privately or at events in sanctioned spaces while representing one's title, provided that:
  - a. No illegal activity is occurring.
  - b. The title or association with WLP is not used for personal profit.
  - c. No visual representations (images or video) are created and distributed while explicitly representing the title or WLP.
  - d. When in doubt, take actions to mitigate a conflict and remember that when in public, and especially at community events, a titleholder is always representing WLP and their community.
  - e. The producers have the right to interpret the above as they see fit and can initiate disciplinary action as necessary to protect WLP and their affiliates.

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13. Contestants and titleholders are expected to conduct themselves in a responsible, honorable, and trustworthy manner any time they are representing their title or WLP and will be held accountable for their actions at public and private events.
  - a. This includes not consuming excessive amounts of alcohol, not engaging in any verbal, written, physical, or emotional abuse of others, not participating in gossip or deceitfulness, and complying with applicable local, state, and federal laws.
  - b. Contestants and titleholders are required to be respectful of all pronouns, identities, and orientations.
14. Contestants and titleholders may not exploit the community for personal gain, and may not represent their personal views as the views of WLP or its leadership.
15. The entourage of contestants and titleholders is directly representative of them, and they are responsible for ensuring that the behavior of their entourage is in line with these behavioral expectations.
16. The leadership of WLP has the right to interpret the above as they see fit and can initiate disciplinary action as necessary to protect WLP and its affiliates. Wisconsin Leather Pride reserves the right to revoke any title at any time for any reason.

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## **General Rules and Information**

1. The rough schedule of required events is as follows:
  - a. Friday night: contestant meeting, on-stage contestant introductions and pop questions
  - b. Interviews will be conducted on Saturday and will not be open to the public or other contestants and handlers.
  - c. Educational Presentations will be held on Saturday and are open to the public, including other contestants and handlers.
  - d. Saturday night, on stage: Fetish Show Scenes, Speeches, and announcement of winners.
  - e. The Victory Brunch will be held on Sunday morning.
  - f. Winning titleholders are required to attend the WLP Titleholders' Business Meeting on Sunday afternoon.
2. At least one Den Person will be provided by Wisconsin Leather Pride to assist contestants during the course of the competition and will be the primary point of contact between the contestants and competition staff for any and all questions, comments, and concerns.
3. Contestants will be required to wear an event badge and their contestant number during the competition. All other participants will also be required to wear an event badge during the entirety of the event.
  - a. Judges will be aware of this requirement, and failure to wear either may affect scoring.
4. Confetti, glitter, and live animals (unless they are certified service animals), are strictly prohibited.
  - a. Any contestant attempting to utilize any of the aforementioned may be immediately disqualified, removed from the competition, and required to pay for cleaning required and/or repair of any damage caused.
5. A single dressing area will be provided for all contestants during the Saturday night portion of the contest.



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6. Contestants are responsible for storing, loading, and removing their apparel and other props.
  - a. Note that Wisconsin Leather Pride and any of its representatives will not be responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged property that is left unattended.
  - b. Following the competition all props and personal belongings must be removed from the venue.
  - c. Contestants may forfeit their Title if they do not remain on stage for the entire award ceremony and photography session unless excused.

## **Event Access**

1. Access to Wisconsin Leather Pride Weekend, including the Sunday Victory Brunch is included in the contestant fee for each contestant.
2. All contestant handlers or assistants must purchase a full event pass. All people entering the secured Wisconsin Leather Pride event area must have, on their person, a valid government ID issued in their name.
3. Each contestant may have assistants or handlers to help them navigate the weekend. However, no assistants or handlers will be allowed backstage unless a specific exception is granted by WLP leadership.

## **Contestant Application Process**

1. Contestant applicants will submit a written application, bio, photo(s), and photo release via a web form no later than 11:59 p.m. on October 1.
2. After applications close, contestants will receive confirmation within seven (7) days that their application has been accepted. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.
3. Accepted contestants will receive instructions to submit the contestant fee of \$80, which includes the contestant's weekend access and Sunday Victory Brunch tickets. The contestant fee is due within seven days of being notified. If the fee is not received by the deadline, the contestant will not be allowed to compete.
4. Once contestant applications are confirmed, contestants will be added to a Telegram chat, which will be the primary method for communication with contestants until the contest.
5. Once accepted, contestants should not have direct communication with WLP staff, except Contest Coordinator(s) and Den Staff, or with announced judges or tally people for any contest.

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## **Contest Format and Requirements**

Each title contest will be judged by a panel of five (5) judges, plus an alternate judge, with the entire panel consisting of ten (10) judges and two (2) alternates.

## **Mr. Wisconsin Leather Pride, Ms. Wisconsin Leather Pride, Mx. Wisconsin Leather Pride & Wisconsin Person of Leather Competitions**

Contestants will be judged in the following categories:

1. Public image, judged throughout the entire judgable weekend.
2. 15-minute closed personal interview, with a possible five-minute call-back.
3. 15-minute educational presentation of the contestant's choosing, within limits of available space and equipment.
4. On-stage pop questions
5. On-stage two (2) minute speech

## **Wisconsin Bootblack Competition**

1. Public image, judged throughout the entire judgable weekend.
2. 15-minute closed personal interview, with a possible five-minute call-back.
3. Bootblack skills
4. On-stage pop questions
5. On-stage two (2) minute speech

## **Wisconsin Handler, Wisconsin Pet, Wisconsin Bear, Wisconsin Cub & Wisconsin Fetish**

1. Public image, judged throughout the entire judgable weekend.
2. 15-minute closed personal interview, with a possible five-minute call-back.
3. 15-minute educational presentation of the contestant's choosing, within limits of available space and equipment.
4. Five (5) minute Fetish Show Scene
5. On-stage pop questions
6. On-stage two (2) minute speech

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### **Public Image (All title contestants) – 100 points/judge (500 points total)**

Public image is judged all weekend beginning when you arrive in the event space on Friday until the on-stage contest begins on Saturday night, both in and out of formal contest events.

- Contestants will be judged on how they present themselves and interact with the public, how they interact with their fellow contestants, and how they represent themselves as a potential titleholder.
- All attire worn outside the secured event space must be “street legal” and should be appropriate for the area. Judges may choose to deduct points if you are inappropriately dressed outside of the secured event space.
- Inside the secured event space, there are no specific rules governing dress. However, your attire should be appropriate for your current activity or contest segment.
- **Judging criteria:** confidence, relaxed, approachable, charisma, appropriate attire, fits properly, body language, interactions with others, grooming, authenticity.

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### Interview (All title contestants) –200 points/judge (1000 points total)

- Interviews are 15 minutes. Judges will have the option to call the contestant back for one additional question from the panel, with a time limit of five (5) minutes.
  - When time is up, contestants will be allowed to finish their answer without interruption before time is called.
  - If less than one-minute remains, no additional questions will be asked.
- Contestants are required to remain at the interview location for the entire duration of interviews for all contestants in their judging group until officially dismissed by the den staff.
- **Attire:** Contestants should dress in attire that makes them feel confident and showcases their unique leather/fetish/kink personality and that conveys respect for the judges and the contest.
  - Contestants should plan to have their face visible during the interview. Masks, heads, hoods, etc. may be worn into the room, but should be removed after greeting the judges. Contestants may instead carry gear that covers their face or choose not to bring it at all.
- **Bootblack specific note:** Bootblack contestants' interviews will be first. When they finish their interview, they will be presented with their tech boot and will have 1 hour to complete it. The judges will receive the tech boot and have time to review it before the contestant is called back into the room for their Bootblack Skills interview. If the judges request a call-back question for the personal interview, it will be asked before the skills interview begins.
- **Judging criteria:** attitude, composure, authenticity, appropriate attire, body language, clarity of statement, directness, complete answers, time management, volume, entrance/exit

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**Educational Presentation (All title contestants *except* Bootblack)** – 50 points/judge (250 points total)

- The educational presentation will be open to all event attendees, including other title contestants, and will be judged by the title's respective panel of judges. Class topics should be submitted a minimum of two weeks prior to the start of the contest. Prohibited classes or class inclusions include, but are not limited to, race play, firearms, fire play/fire flogging/fire whipping.
- No presentation technology will be available, and contestants will be responsible for providing their own supplies, including required furniture, and extra personnel, like a demo bottom or demo top. Judges may deduct points if the demo top or bottom appears to be teaching rather than assisting.
- Rules regarding educational aids:
  - Contestants are responsible for their own small props such as paddles, whips, etc.
  - Contestants are limited to one large prop which must be able to be quickly moved by the contestant and one other person who is provided by the contestant.
  - The space must be able to be set within three (3) minutes and cleared within three (3) minutes.
  - Props may not cause any damage to the venue (such as chainsaws, paint, etc.)
  - No firearms or anything that looks like a firearm.
  - No exhaust, smoke, flames, lit candles or fire play (no motorized vehicles, lit cigars, or cigarettes)
  - No flashing or strobe lights
  - No confetti or glitter
  - No wax, oils, or sprays that may leave residue, slipperiness or discoloration on the walls or floor may be used.
- Each contestant is free to structure their presentation however they wish but should keep in mind that the goal is to impart information about your announced topic within the allotted 15-minute time slot.
- The presentation times and locations will be announced at least two weeks ahead of the contest once applications have closed and they have been slotted into the schedule on Saturday.
- **Judging criteria:** attitude, composure, authenticity, body language, clarity of statement, directness, time management, volume, class beginning and ending, relation of presentation to advertised topic, grasp of the topic, ability to answer questions

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### Pop Question & Nightlife Attire (All title contestants) – 50 points/judge (250 points total)

- Each contestant will answer one serious question and one silly question on stage.
- Judges will provide the questions to Wisconsin Leather Pride prior to the contest.
- Questions will be written individually on slips of paper and contestants will choose a question at random from the MC. The contestant will read the question, hand the question to the MC to be read aloud for the audience, and then the contestant will answer.
- Answers should be kept to a reasonable length. There is no official time limit, but as a rough guideline, one (1) minute should be sufficient to answer.
- **Attire:** Contestants should dress in bar/club wear. Alternatively, contestants could dress in hot wear if they choose.
- **Judging Criteria:** confidence, charisma, timing, attitude, composure, attire, complete answers, clarity of statement, volume, entrance/exit/stage use

### Speech & Best Attire (All title contestants) –100 points/judge (500 points total)

- Speeches are two (2) minutes long.
  - Points will be deducted from the total speech score for going over time as follows:
    - 1 to 10 seconds over: 2 points
    - 11 to 20 seconds over: 5 points
    - 21 to 30 seconds over: 10 points
    - 31 to 59 seconds over: 15 points
    - 61 or more seconds over: 25 points
  - The judges will not penalize the contestants for going over and will judge them on the quality and content of the speech only. The tally staff will make the deduction.
  - There is no minimum time limit for speeches, but the speech should be long enough to convey a complete message.
- The speech can be about any topic of your choosing.
- **Attire:** Contestants should dress in their leather/fetish/kink best. This is what they'll be wearing when they come on stage for the announcement of winners. This means what they wear for their speech is what they'll be photographed being sashed in should they win.
- **Judging criteria:** appropriate attire, proper fit, grooming, attitude, composure, authenticity, message, clarity of statement, volume, entrance/exit/stage use

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### **Bootblack Skills (Bootblack contestants only) – 200 points/judge (1000 points total)**

The bootblack skills category replaces the education presentation for Bootblack contestants.

The Bootblack contest is, at its core, a skills contest. Wisconsin Bootblack contestants should be well versed in the basic skills of Bootblacking, including technical know-how and demonstrated knowledge of operating a Bootblack stand.

*As such, contestants must meet a minimum of 70% of the Bootblack Skills points (700 points total) in order to earn the title of Wisconsin Bootblack.* If the minimum score for this category is achieved, the total points will be included in the overall score for the contest. Contestants will be given the opportunity before the contest begins to indicate whether they would like to be notified should they not achieve the minimum number of points for the category.

Should the minimum score for this category not be achieved and the contestant has requested to be notified, the contestant will not compete in any further judged activities.

If the contestant has requested that they *not* be notified should they fail to meet the minimum score for this category, they will continue to compete as expected.

- **Stand-time**

- Contestants will be observed and evaluated during stand time during the meet and greet on Friday evening.
- All title contestants are encouraged to sit for Bootblack title contestants.
- **Judging Criteria:** speed of process, confidence, product knowledge, organization, end results, interaction between the contestant and the client

- **Tech Boot**

- Bootblack contestants will receive their tech boot at the end of their interview in front of the judges.
- Contestants will have one hour to make the boot look as good as possible within the time limit. This one hour will be supervised by someone appointed by the producers.
- Tech boot supervisor will not answer questions or offer assistance.
- At the end of contestant interviews, judges will be presented with each contestant's boot, one at a time.
- **Judging Criteria:** product choice/usage, technique, knowledge, boot cleanliness, saturation of color, end results, damage repair\*
  - \*Damage repair could include, but is not limited to, verdigris, eyelet paint, lace fraying, loose threads, color correction, scuffs or scratches, etc.

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- **Tech Interview**

- Once the judges have had time to view the tech boot, the contestant will enter the room for the skills interview.
- The interview will give the judges the opportunity to ask the contestant questions about their stand-time and their tech boot.
- The interview will last no longer than fifteen minutes.
  - When time is up, the contestant will be allowed to finish their answer without interruption before time is called.
  - If less than one minute remains, no additional questions will be asked.
- **Judging Criteria:** knowledge of products, confidence in process, attitude, ability to explain process, composure, body language, directness, complete answers, time management, volume



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## **Fetish Show Scene (Wisconsin Handler, Wisconsin Pet, Wisconsin Bear, Wisconsin Cub & Wisconsin Fetish contestants only) – 50 points/judge (250 points total)**

- Each contestant will perform a fetish show scene of no longer than five (5) minutes.
  - Points will be deducted for going over time on the following scale:
    - 1 to 10 seconds over: 2 points
    - 11 to 20 seconds over: 5 points
    - 21 to 30 seconds over: 10 points
    - 31 to 60 seconds over: 15 points
    - 61 or more seconds over: 25 points
  - The judges will not penalize the contestants for going over and will judge them on the quality and content of the Fetish Show Scene only. The tally staff will make the deduction.
  - There is no minimum time limit for Fetish Show Scenes, but they should be long enough to display your fetish to the judges and audience.
- The primary goal of the Fetish Show Scene is to give contestants an opportunity to show their fetish. The scene should reflect the title the contestant is competing for. For example, a handler or pet contestant should be showing off their handler or pet, respectively.
- Fetish show scenes must be done in accordance with federal, state and county laws and within the limits of the contest venue, and any insurance policy guidelines. (If you are unsure, ask.)
- Each contestant may have up to two additional people performing in the fetish show scene.
- You must provide any pre-recorded music/sound to the event producers via email no later than 11:59 p.m. on the Wednesday before the contest.

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- Rules regarding props
  - Contestants are responsible for their own small props such as paddles, whips, etc.
  - Contestants are limited to one large prop which must be able to be quickly moved on and off stage by the contestant and one other person who is provided by the contestant.
  - The stage must be able to be set within two (2) minutes and cleared within two (2) minutes.
  - Props may not cause any damage to the stage or venue (such as chainsaws, paint, etc.)
  - No firearms or anything that looks like a firearm.
  - No exhaust, smoke, lit candles or fire play (no motorized vehicles, lit cigars or cigarettes)
  - No flashing or strobe lights
  - No confetti or glitter
  - No wax, oils, or sprays that may leave residue, slipperiness or discoloration on the stage may be used.
- **Attire:** Contestants should wear whatever is appropriate for their fantasy, including appropriate safety gear. Judges may choose to deduct points if proper safety gear is not worn.
- **Judging Criteria:** preparation, entertainment, audience connection, connection to title contest, originality, authenticity, fetish image, attire, appropriate, storyline, composure

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## **Judging**

There will be five (5) judges and one (1) alternate for the Mr. Wisconsin Leather Pride, Ms. Wisconsin Leather Pride, Mx. Wisconsin Leather Pride, Wisconsin Bootblack, and Wisconsin Person of Leather competitions, and five (5) judges and (1) alternate for the Wisconsin Handler, Wisconsin Pet, Wisconsin Bear, Wisconsin Cub, and Wisconsin Fetish competitions, for a total of ten (10) judges, with two (2) alternates, all of whom are prominent members of the Leather/Kink/Fetish community.

Wisconsin Leather Pride utilizes a straight scoring system. In this system the scores from the five (5) judges are totaled for each category. A winner shall be selected for each title contest with contestants. Should four or more contestants compete for the same title, a first runner-up will also be announced. The scores for each category are compiled to determine the final score. The contestant with the highest final score will win the competition. In the event of a tie, the score of the alternate judge will be added to break the tie. If there is still a tie, then the winner with the highest score in the Speech category will be considered the winner. Contestants who run unopposed must still meet the required minimum number of available points. All contests require that a contestant achieve at least 70% of the maximum total points to win the title. If no contestant achieves the 70% score, then that title will remain vacant for that title year.

Following the contest, the contestants' score sheets will be provided to them. On the scoring sheets, the judges will be identified by name, and they will sign off on them before handing them over for tallying.

The following will be provided to each contestant within sixty (60) days of the competition:

1. Individual contestant's full score sheet
2. Judges' score sheets, including comments, for the individual contestant
3. Documentation of any administrative penalties received

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## Point Allocations

**For the Mr. Wisconsin Leather Pride, Ms. Wisconsin Leather Pride, Mx. Wisconsin Leather Pride, and Wisconsin Person of Leather competitions:**

Public Image	100 points/judge	500 points total
Interview	200 points/judge	1000 points total
Educational Presentation	50 points/judge	250 points total
Pop Question & Nightlife Attire	50 points/judge	250 points total
Speech & Best Attire	100 points/judge	500 points total
<b>Point totals</b>	<b>500 total points/judge</b>	<b>2500 total possible points</b>

The contestant must achieve 70% of total possible points to earn the title.

70% of total possible points = 1750 points

**For the Wisconsin Handler, Wisconsin Pet, Wisconsin Bear, Wisconsin Cub, and Wisconsin Fetish competitions:**

Public Image	100 points/judge	500 points total
Interview	200 points/judge	1000 points total
Educational Presentation	50 points/judge	250 points total
Pop Question & Nightlife Attire	50 points/judge	250 points total
Speech & Best Attire	100 points/judge	500 points total
Fetish Show Scene	50 points/judge	250 points total
<b>Point totals</b>	<b>550 total points/judge</b>	<b>2750 total possible points</b>

The contestant must achieve 70% of total possible points to earn the title.

70% of total possible points = 1925 points

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## For the Wisconsin Bootblack competition:

Public Image	100 points/judge	500 points total
Interview	200 points/judge	1000 points total
Bootblack Skills	200 points/judge	1000 points total
Pop Question & Nightlife Attire	50 points/judge	250 points total
Speech & Best Attire	100 points/judge	500 points total
<b>Point totals</b>	<b>650 total points/judge</b>	<b>3250 total possible points</b>

The contestant must achieve 70% of Bootblack Skills points in addition to earning 70% of total possible points to earn the title.

70% of Bootblack Skills points = 700

70% of total possible points = 2275 points

## Notice: Fraternization with Judges, Tally Persons, and WLP Staff

Contestants will be prohibited from having private meetings or engaging in sexual activity or Leather/Kink scene play with the Judges, Tally Persons(s), or Staff from the time they submit and pay their application fee until the Contest is concluded with the awarding of titles. Any behavior that might create even the appearance of any bias will be brought to the attention of the Head Judge, who will decide if the disqualification of either the Judge, Tally, or Staff and/or the Contestant is warranted. To avoid accidental violation of this policy, all Contestants, Judges, Tally Persons, and Staff shall display their identification badges at all Contest Events.

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## **Expectations for Wisconsin Leather Pride Titleholders**

### **Behavioral Expectations for Titleholders**

1. All expectations listed in the section titled “Expectations for Behavior for Contestants and Titleholders” remain in force throughout the duration of the titleholder’s title year.
2. Titleholders should be aware that as public figures, they are representing themselves, their title, Wisconsin Leather Pride, Wisconsin Leather Pride leadership, and their community. They must conform their public behavior, including on social media, so as to represent themselves and WLP in a positive and respectful way.
3. An active presence on social media is highly encouraged. Behavior, speech, and how the contestant or titleholder represents themselves and WLP is expected to conform to the same standards expected from in-person interactions.
  - a. The producers have the right to request correction or removal of posts on social media that misrepresent the above.
  - b. Conflicts of any kind are to be resolved in private and not through social media.
4. Respectful and honest communication between titleholders and producers is required at all times. Titleholders must provide WLP with accurate, up-to-date contact information throughout their title year. A response to communication via the provided method is generally expected within five (5) days.
5. Titleholders must take care to avoid representing their personal views as the views of WLP or its leadership.
6. WLP does not have specific requirements on drinking or substance use while representing one’s title but does encourage the titleholder to use common sense. WLP requires that you be responsible and respectful while being free to be your authentic self.
  - a. Driving while intoxicated (as well as any other felonious behavior) is explicitly forbidden.
  - b. The use, distribution, or possession of any illegal substance, based on the laws of the jurisdiction where the titleholder is representing their title at any given time, is explicitly forbidden for all Wisconsin Leather Pride titleholders. If any Wisconsin Leather Pride titleholder is found to be in violation of this policy, disciplinary action may taken, up to and including the title being stripped.
7. The leadership of WLP has the right to interpret the above as they see fit and can initiate disciplinary action as necessary to protect WLP and its affiliates. Wisconsin Leather Pride reserves the right to revoke any title at any time for any reason.

# **Wisconsin Leather Pride Contestant & Titleholder Handbook**

## **Wisconsin Leather Pride Titleholder Paraphernalia**

1. Wisconsin Leather Pride provides the following to winning titleholders at the time of the win: title patch, medallion, and title stole. A year rocker bar is provided at a later date. All items remain the property of WLP.
2. The title patch, year rocker bar, and medallion remain with the titleholder unless the title is removed.
3. The stole is a legacy stole that is passed each year to the next titleholder, or, if there is no new titleholder, back to Wisconsin Leather Pride LLC (WLP). The titleholder agrees to treat it as the heirloom item that it is intended to be:
  - a. The titleholder agrees to return the stole in good condition when the titleholder steps down from the title, either by passing it to the new titleholder on stage at the Wisconsin Leather Pride Contest or by returning it to a person designated by WLP.
  - b. The titleholder understands that keeping the stole in good condition is the titleholder's responsibility for the duration of the time I am in possession of it. This includes ensuring it stays clean and is protected from rips, stains, tears, and other damage. It also includes storing the stole properly and returning it in a clean and cared-for condition. If the titleholder is unsure of how to properly care for the stole, they will ask the owners of WLP.
  - c. The titleholder agrees that if the stole is lost or damaged during the time that titleholder is in possession of the stole, the titleholder will be required to reimburse WLP for the cost of repairs or replacement of the stole.

## **Social Media & Public Relations**

Wisconsin Leather Pride titleholders are strongly encouraged to create, maintain, and update a titleholder email address, and a Facebook, Bluesky and/or Instagram account during their title year. All correspondence and inquiries must be answered or referred to WLP leadership within 48 hours. If this becomes troublesome, you are asked to contact the producers to discuss troubleshooting. Do not submit or participate in any social media discussions that are not Wisconsin Leather Pride positive or that would otherwise poorly represent Wisconsin Leather Pride. If you have any concerns about content or message, please contact WLP leadership.

# Wisconsin Leather Pride Contestant & Titleholder Handbook

## Duties of Winning Titleholders

1. Wisconsin Leather Pride title contest winners will be required to attend the New Title Holder Business meeting following the Victory Brunch on Sunday.
  - a. Contracts will be signed at the New Title Holder Business meeting. Failure to attend this meeting and sign the contract may result in forfeiture of the title and it will be awarded to the first runner-up.
2. Winners must appear in person at the Victory Bruch on Sunday.
3. Wear appropriate WLP title specific regalia at all Leather/kink/fetish events attended during the title year. If you are unsure of the appropriate regalia for an event, the producers will assist you.
4. Respectful and honest communication between titleholders and producers is required at all times. Titleholders must provide WLP with accurate, up-to-date contact information throughout their title year. A response to communication via the provided method is generally expected within five (5) days.
  - a. Titleholders must attend scheduled check-ins throughout their title year as requested by WLP leadership. These check-ins will be held at least quarterly. In preparation for these check-ins, titleholders should complete progress/activity and financial disclosure reports by due dates assigned.
  - b. Titleholders must notify producers of any arrests that occur during their title year as soon as reasonably possible.
5. Wisconsin Leather Pride titleholders are required to hold a minimum of two fundraising events during their title year. One event is to raise money for any worthy charitable cause; the second event is to raise money for Wisconsin Leather Pride to help cover the costs of producing the subsequent weekend event.
  - a. Both events must be held within the borders of the State of Wisconsin.
  - b. The producers will offer advice and guidance as much as is reasonably possible with planning and producing these events. However, the Titleholder is responsible for executing their own events and the producers will not be responsible for the execution of the event, or the labor required for planning.
  - c. WLP leadership will attend as many events held by titles as possible, but their attendance or work should not be counted on for the event to run successfully.
  - d. Producers may offer opportunities to participate in other activities, at their discretion if they become available, that would complete the required fundraising to benefit Wisconsin Leather Pride.



# **Wisconsin Leather Pride Contestant & Titleholder Handbook**

6. The Wisconsin Leather Pride mission is education focused, and education is how we meet our mission. Titleholders are required to support the WLP mission by providing at least two educational opportunities to the Leather/kink/fetish communities. Each of these educational opportunities may be provided in one of two ways:
  - a. Teaching a class, leading a roundtable discussion, or participating on a discussion panel. This requirement may be met in any location and does not have to be met within the borders of the State of Wisconsin. If you choose to compete in your next level competition, regional or international, and you are required to teach a full-length class, the class you give during the competition may be used to meet this requirement.
  - b. Providing educational opportunities within the borders of the State of Wisconsin. This could be offering education as part of a required fundraising event or hosting a separate class or educational event.
7. Titleholders are required to attend the subsequent Wisconsin Leather Pride Weekend event and are required to arrive by 4:00 pm on Friday.
  - a. Titleholders are expected to provide event assistance on Friday evening (for example: registration table, security, set-up, etc.).
  - b. Titleholders are required to give a step aside speech at the event. Producers reserve the right to limit the time allotted and to require a preview of the intended speech.
8. If the titleholder completes their contractual duties and complies with all behavioral expectations during their title year, producers may, at their sole discretion, ask the titleholder to act as a judge or tally staff for the WLP contest the year following their step aside.
9. In the unfortunate situation that there is no contestant for the title during the year of the titleholder's step aside, producers and the titleholder will discuss whether it is appropriate for the current titleholder to continue to hold the title for an additional year. This will only be approved by the producers if the titleholder has completed all contractual duties for the current year and if continuation of the title could be beneficial to all parties.
  - a. Should the title be continued for a second year, the titleholder will be expected to complete the same duties during that year that would be required if they had just won the title, unless an exception is approved by the leadership of WLP.
  - b. The decision of whether or not the titleholder will continue with the title for an additional year will be finalized no less than seven (7) days prior to the start of the Wisconsin Leather Pride Weekend event. This will remain confidential until it is announced on stage Saturday night, when the titleholder will be announced and will appear on stage with the class of winners.
  - c. Should there be a contestant for the title and the title not be awarded, that title will remain empty for the year. The titleholder scheduled to step aside will not retain the title.

# **Wisconsin Leather Pride**

## **Contestant & Titleholder Handbook**

10. If a titleholder fails to complete their contractual obligations or is found to be in violation of any part of the behavioral expectations or their contract, Wisconsin Leather Pride reserves the right to remove them from the title.
  - a. If there are any situations in the titleholder's life, past or present, that may come out during the title year that will reflect negatively on the titleholder that are not disclosed on the application, the information should be shared with WLP leadership ASAP before the situation may escalate.
11. If a titleholder is removed from their position, Wisconsin Leather Pride may, at the discretion of the leadership, ask the first runner-up to serve in their place as titleholder for the balance of the title year. The removed titleholder must return any and all WLP patches and paraphernalia, medallions, and trophies pertaining to the revoked title immediately, and forfeits any prizes not already redeemed. This includes any items reflecting the WLP title, including pins, stickers, etc. that the titleholder may have had made. If the actual out of pocket cost of these items has not already been earned back from sales, then any remaining travel funds will be used to reimburse the titleholder for the actual cost of the items returned, as shown on a receipt. Additionally, the removed titleholder must return or repay all monies given to them by WLP within fourteen (14) days of the title being removed. The removed titleholder will not be considered to have stepped aside and will not be accorded the rights and benefits of an Alumni Titleholder.
12. The leadership of WLP has the right to interpret the above as they see fit and can initiate disciplinary action as necessary to protect WLP and its affiliates. Wisconsin Leather Pride reserves the right to revoke any title at any time for any reason.

# **Wisconsin Leather Pride Contestant & Titleholder Handbook**

## **Highly Encouraged but Not Required Duties of Winning Titleholders**

1. Wisconsin Leather Pride title contest winners are highly encouraged to attend as many Leather/fetish/kink events as possible.
  - a. Priority should be given to attending as many Wisconsin events as possible.
  - b. Representing the Wisconsin Leather Pride brand at larger regional or international events is highly encouraged.
2. Wisconsin Leather Pride has a tabling presence at many Pride festivals each year both to raise awareness of the event and as part of our mission to educate by sharing age-appropriate, factual information to all who stop at our space. Titleholders are strongly encouraged to have a tabling presence at their local Pride events, and to assist the organization at events arranged by WLP leadership.
3. Titleholders are not required to compete in regional or international competitions along their title track but are highly encouraged to do so. The only exception is for Wisconsin Person of Leather, who is required to compete at the regional contest. Judges may, at their discretion, factor this information into their scoring. Have a ready answer to the question of whether or not a regional title will be pursued and why.
  - a. Titleholders may compete at the following regional competitions:
    - i. The following titles feed to their respective Route 66 titles: Mr./Ms./Mx.  
Wisconsin Leather Pride, Wisconsin Bootblack, Wisconsin Pet, Wisconsin Bear
      1. There is no Mx. Route 66 Leather competition, so Mx. Wisconsin Leather Pride may choose to compete for Mr. or Ms. Route 66 Leather.
    - ii. Wisconsin Person of Leather feeds to Midwest Person of Leather
    - iii. Wisconsin Cub feeds to North American Cub
    - iv. Wisconsin Handler feeds to Midwest Handler
    - v. Wisconsin Fetish feeds to Midwest Fetish

# Wisconsin Leather Pride Contestant & Titleholder Handbook

## Travel and Travel Funds

1. A travel fund has been established to assist titleholders in representing Wisconsin Leather Pride and the Wisconsin kink/leather/fetish community in a variety of location and events.
  - a. Travel funds will consist of any funds raised on Friday night during the meet & greet and any funds donated by other individuals or organizations specifically for the WLP travel fund.
    - i. Contestants competing in all Wisconsin Leather Pride title competitions will be required to provide a raffle item as well as participate in fundraising events during the competition. Many businesses, clubs, and organizations will be willing to donate items to assist with fundraising activities in exchange for the visibility they gain.
2. Within 30 days after the conclusion of the contest, titleholders will be given their allocated Travel Fund via a paper check. The check clearing the bank will be considered proof of you having received it, unless the bank confirms a fraudulent deposit. All travel funds given by Wisconsin Leather Pride, and all travel fund monies earned during the title year having been advertised as going to a Wisconsin Leather Pride titleholder's travel fund, remain the property of Wisconsin Leather Pride.
3. Travel is defined as only the titleholder's expenses for attending events of a leather, kink, or fetish nature.
  - a. Appropriate uses for travel funds are hotels, airfare, gas, tolls, registration fees, and food, with limitations as described below:
    - i. Entry fees and travel expenses for the next level competition. (Producers will not add additional money to pay competition entry fees.)
    - ii. Hotel expenses at the rate of the host hotel or cheaper and only for the nights of the event. An exception is made if the host hotel is fully booked as well as any overflow hotels and there is no comparably priced hotel in the immediate area.
    - iii. Airfare for economy tickets.
    - iv. Gas and tolls based on actual expense and route taken to the event.
    - v. Registration fees, not including optional items (shirts, swag, etc.).
    - vi. Food at a reasonable per-diem basis. Meal tickets required by the event are considered reasonable.

*1. Travel funds may not be used for alcohol/liquor.*

## **Wisconsin Leather Pride Contestant & Titleholder Handbook**

4. It is up to you to use travel funds to assist you in your travel to your required events. It is assumed that funds will not be sufficient to cover all expenses related to your travel, we encourage you to supplement the travel fund through fundraising activities and/or your own resources.
  - a. Travel funds may be used by the titleholder for traveling to events of their choosing; however, priority should be given to mandatory events and next-level competitions as they will not be given additional financial resources to comply with their obligations.
5. Wisconsin Leather Pride reserves the right to audit you at any time to make sure that you are using the funds appropriately, so make certain to save receipts for your various expenses (i.e. hotel, registration, fuel, airfare, etc.) and record them in a timely manner. Accounting must be provided to producers within five (5) days upon request.
6. All events that you attend, whether paid by the titleholder's travel fund or not, should be recorded with the Producers in a timely manner. This assists Wisconsin Leather Pride with marketing and media strategy. It also allows us to highlight outgoing titleholder travel and efforts during Wisconsin Leather Pride Weekend
7. Travel funds, whether provided by WLP or raised by the titleholder, that remain unused by the end of the title year are required to be remitted to the producers before the date of the next Wisconsin Leather Pride Weekend event and will be rolled over for the next title class.

# **Wisconsin Leather Pride Contestant & Titleholder Handbook**

## **Removal of Title**

1. Wisconsin Leather Pride reserves the right to revoke any title at any time for any reason. If a titleholder fails to perform their duties as specified or is found to be in violation of any clause in the Titleholder Contract during their title year, Wisconsin Leather Pride may remove them from the title.
  - a. Keeping WLP leadership up to date and good communication can reduce many of these concerns. If there are any situations in your life that may come out during the title year that reflect negatively on the titleholder and have not already been included in the contestant application, it should be shared with WLP leadership immediately before a particular situation may escalate.
  - b. The removed titleholder must return any and all Wisconsin Pride patches and paraphernalia, medallions, and trophies pertaining to the revoked title immediately and forfeits any prizes not already redeemed. Additionally, the removed titleholder must return all travel fund monies remaining within fourteen (14) days of the title being stripped. If the removed titleholder does not return any of the aforementioned, Wisconsin Leather Pride reserves the right to take legal action to reclaim the items and monies.
  - c. The removed titleholder will not be considered as having stepped down and will not be accorded the rights and benefits of an Alumni Titleholder.
2. If a titleholder is removed from their position, Wisconsin Leather Pride may, at the discretion of the leadership, ask the first runner-up to serve in their place as titleholder for the balance of the title year.
3. Additionally, WLP reserves the right to remove a title from an alumni titleholder if it is determined that the alumni titleholder is in violation of the Alumni Titleholder Code of Conduct.

# **Wisconsin Leather Pride Contestant & Titleholder Handbook**

## **Alumni Titleholder Code of Conduct**

1. Bigotry, racism, sexism, transphobia, homophobia, or any other discriminatory or prejudicial behavior has no place in Wisconsin Leather Pride or the greater Leather/kink/fetish community.
  - a. Deliberate or unapologetic behavior along these lines is grounds for stripping of the title.
2. Driving under the influence of any substance, as defined by law, could result in stripping of the title.
3. Respectful and honest communication between alumni and Wisconsin Leather Pride leadership, titleholders, contestants, and other representatives is required at all times. Conflicts are to be resolved in private and not through social media.
4. Alumni are expected to continue to conduct themselves in a responsible, honorable and trustworthy manner.
  - a. This includes not consuming excessive amounts of alcohol, not engaging in any verbal, written, physical, or emotional abuse of others, not participating in gossip or deceitfulness, and complying with applicable local, state, and federal laws.
    - i. Any new criminal conviction may be grounds for stripping of the title.
  - b. Alumni are expected to be respectful of all pronouns, identities, and orientations.
5. Alumni may not exploit the community for personal gain and may not represent their personal views as the views of WLP or its leadership.
6. Any removed titleholder will not be considered as having stepped down and will not be accorded the rights and benefits of an Alumni Titleholder.
7. The leadership of WLP has the right to interpret the above as they see fit and can initiate disciplinary action as necessary to protect WLP and its affiliates. Wisconsin Leather Pride reserves the right to revoke any title at any time for any reason.

# **Wisconsin Leather Pride Contestant & Titleholder Handbook**