Mr. Ohio Leather Official Contest Handbook

Title Awarded: Mr. Ohio Leather 2027

Contest Weekend: October 9-11, 2026

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Welcome

Dear Contestant,

Welcome to the Mr. Ohio Leather Contest. This year marks an exciting evolution of our tradition as we proudly award the Mr. Ohio Leather 2027 title. This handbook contains all the information you need to prepare for the contest weekend. If you have any questions not answered within these pages, or if you need additional information, please e-mail nash@benashty.com and reference the Mr. Ohio Leather Contest.

Best of Luck!
Nash
Executive Producer, Mr. Ohio Leather Contest

Rules & Regulations

A. Contestant Eligibility

All contestants in the Mr. Ohio Leather Contest must meet the following requirements for the title they are competing for:

1. Identify as male or male-presenting, in accordance with IML Rules & Requirements
2. Have not yet competed in IML
3. Be comfortable being referred to as Mr. Ohio Leather throughout their title year
4. Be at least 21 years of age as of October 9th, 2026
5. Be a resident of Ohio
6. Possess a valid government issued ID, such as a Driver's Licese or passport, containing your legal name and proof of age. This must be presented to the Executive Producer before the contest
7. Disclose any felony convictions and obtain prior authorization to compete with pending approval from the Producers
8. Abide by the rules and regulations outlined in the Contest Handbook and this Disclaimer and pay the $25 Application Fee during the night of the contest.

Each contestant is allowed one handler. This person must:

1. Be at least 21 years of age as of October 9th, 2026
2. Possess a valid government issued ID, such as a Driver's License or passport

B. Contestant Etiquette

1. Complete honesty and full disclosure are expected from all contestants. Any affiliations, issues, or concerns that could reflect poorly on individual candidates and the Mr. Ohio Leather Contest must be divulged to Nashty™ immediately. The Mr. Ohio Leather Contest reserves the right to investigate any claims regarding any contestant that could be potentially damaging to the reputation of both the contestant and Nashty™. The Execytive Producer reserves the right to make any determinations and decisions on how to proceed pending the results of their investigations.
2. Any contestant causing damage to the Cocktails venue; inclusive of decorations and equipment, will be immediately disqualified and may be subject to legal action. If legal action is pursued, Cocktails will assist the venue and any owner of damaged property with any prosecution.

3. Any contestant who is caught in the act of stealing or tampering with another person's gear, or possessions will be immediately disqualified, removed from the location of the contest, and denied access to the event.
4. The Mr. Ohio Leather Contest loves all bodies; however, due to state laws & penalties, we must strictly enforce against public nudity. Contestants may not expose their genitalia during any part of the weekend. For additional guidance:
    - Jock straps may be worn during the contest weekend so long as a one-inch cloth covering is used in the back (bandana, thong, etc.) and covers all genitalia.

C. Policy on Drugs

1. The Mr. Ohio Leather Contest does not tolerate the use, distribution, or possession of illegal drugs by any contestant during the contest. Any contestant found in violation of this rule will be immediately disqualified. Likewise, the Mr. Ohio Leather Contest will not tolerate the use, distribution, or possession of illegal drugs by any contestant handler. The contestant whose handler is found in violation of this rule will be immediately disqualified.
2. This policy will remain in effect for the titleholders of the Mr. Ohio Leather Contest during their title year. If found in violation of this policy, the title will be stripped from the titleholder and passed to the first runner up.

CI. Policy on Alcohol

1. Any contestant who is found to be grossly intoxicated at any Mr. Ohio Leather Contest event will be immediately disqualified, removed from the location, and denied access to the event. Contestants are welcome to enjoy social drinking and should be responsible with beverage consumption.
2. Any contestant handler who is found to be grossly intoxicated at any Mr. Ohio Leather Contest event will be immediately removed from the location and denied access to the event. The contestant whose handler is found to be intoxicated may be subject to score penalization at the discretion of the judges under the respective contestant's "Public Image" scoring.

Contest Policies & Information

Executive Producer

Nashty™ will provide an Executive Producer as your primary point of contact for the Mr. Ohio Leather Contest from time of registration until the end of contest. Any questions, concerns, ideas, or requests should be directed to Nash, Executive Producer via email: nash@benashty.com.

Contestant Application

Candidates will be considered official contestants once they have submitted the Mr. Ohio Leather Contest Application online (available via https://benashty.com/).

Applications are due by 11:59pm ET on Friday, September 25th, 2026. By signing and submitting an application, candidates attest that they have read, understand, and agree to abide by the Rules and Regulations of the Mr. Ohio Leather Contest.

Schedule

All contestants shall receive a finalized schedule of events no later than the Monday prior to the Mr. Ohio Leather Contest. If changes need to be made to this schedule, all contestants shall be notified in a timely manner by the Executive Producer.

Required Meetings, Events & Contest Walk Thru

Mandatory events include:

1. The Mr. Ohio Leather Contestant Meeting
2. The Mr. Ohio Leather Contest

A. Contestant Meeting

The Leather Contestant Meeting is of extreme importance. All contestants and their handlers are required to attend. This meeting will be run by the Executive Producer. At this meeting:

1. Rules and regulations will be reviewed (inclusive of scoring and possible score penalties).
2. A general overview of the contest space, dressing area, stage directions, etc. will be communicated.
3. The following items will be distributed: contestant badges, handler passes, updated contest information, and contestant schedules with times and locations.
4. All contestant information will be reviewed at this time to ensure accuracy in intros and bios.

Contestants should voice any concerns about the contest or discuss special performance requests at this rehearsal, including any accommodations for disabilities.

B. The Mr. Ohio Leather Contest

The Mr. Ohio Leather Contest 2026 will be held at Cocktails 2.0, 33 W Mapledale Ave, Akron, OH 44301

1. Glitter, confetti, fire, liquids, and live animals are strictly prohibited. Any contestant attempting to utilize any of the aforementioned will be immediately disqualified, removed from the contest area, and required to pay for cleaning required and/or repair of any damage caused.
2. A shared dressing area will be provided for all contestants and their handlers. The dressing area will be sectioned off. Chairs and table space will be provided.
3. Contestants are responsible for storing, loading, and removing their leather. The dressing space will be open prior to call time to allow contestants to prepare. Gear, clothing, and any other items needed for the contest should be brought at this time. Please note that the Mr. Ohio Leather Contest and any of its representatives will not be responsible for any lost or damaged property left unattended. Immediately following the contest, gear and personal belongings must be removed from the venue.

Judging

There will be an odd number of judges on the panel, who are active members of the leather and LGBTQ communities. The Mr. Ohio Leather Contest utilizes the Olympic Scoring System. In this system, the highest and lowest scores in each event are dropped and the remaining scores are added to make a contestant's total score for that category. The scores for each category are added together to make your total score. In the event of a tie, scores that were dropped will be added back to determine the winner. No later than two weeks following the end of the contest, a contestant's scores will be provided via email.

It is our sincere hope that all commentary provided allows contestants to improve and empowers them to continue to grow in their leather journey. Any concerns that arise from the receipt of judges' scoring sheets will be addressed by the Executive Producer of the Mr. Ohio Leather Contest.

Score allocation will be as follows:

A. Personal Interview, 30%

Each contestant will be interviewed by our panel of judges prior to the contest. Questions may range from your personal history, life experience, social affiliations, personal and political opinions about current events, etc. Judges' questions often cover knowledge of the leather community and the Contestant's contributions and/or leadership in the leather community.

1. Judges will be looking at the character, charisma, and personality of each contestant. It will also provide them the opportunity to evaluate basic skills and qualities such as intellect, communication capabilities, attitude, and composure.
2. Contestants should feel free to attend the interview in comfortable bar wear. Contestants should remember that this is a professional, yet casual, interview. Attire should reflect personality while remaining relaxed, and professional.
3. The interview schedule and location will be provided at the Mandatory Contest Participant Meeting.
4. Personal Interviews will be scheduled for a maximum of 15 minutes each.

B. Casual Leather & Bar Wear, 20%

Bar wear is a chance for you to show the judges and the crowd who you are with your leather gear. This should be what you would normally wear to the bar and should represent your leather aesthetic or persona.

1. Contestants will be brought on stage one by one and introduced with their contestant number and stage name. As you walk the stage, the emcee will share basic bio info with the crowd including age, current city, etc.
2. Judges will look for how well your gear fits you, your attitude and crowd appeal in leather.
3. Set-up time is not provided; no set or props may be used.
4. No items may be left on the stage upon exiting.

C. Body Confidence & Personality, 20%

This is your chance to show confidence and personality while celebrating your leather identity. Contestants will present themselves in attire appropriate to their identity and leather aesthetic. This is not a "body contest" but rather how comfortable and confident you appear in your own skin. Have fun and be yourself!

1. Contestants will be brought on stage one by one and introduced with a fun and personal bio that could include: fetishes, kinks, hanky code, personal community identifiers, etc.
2. Contestants will be asked to answer at least one pop question written by the judges. Contestants will be allowed up to 90 seconds to answer the question after they have read it to themselves and the MC has read it aloud to the audience.
3. Judges will be looking for how confident you are on stage. They will also judge your response to the question. It will not be about how correct the answer is, but how you choose to answer. Judges would prefer a correct answer; however, this is also your chance to win over the crowd with your personality.

4. Set-up time is not provided; no set props may be used.
5. No items may be left on the stage upon exiting.

D. Formal Leather/Platform Speech, 25%

Impress the judges with your formal leather attire and present a platform speech on stage.

1. Contestants will be brought on stage one by one and introduced with their contributions to the leather and LGBTQ communities.
2. Contestants will have up to 90 seconds to give a speech on stage in front of the audience. This is an opportunity to show off your communication skills, ideas, or goals, and can cover a topic of your choosing.
3. Judges will be looking for the overall appearance of each contestant in full leather including how well it fits, the contestant's attitude and overall appeal in leather.
4. Set-up time is not provided; no set props may be used.
5. No items may be left on the stage upon exiting.

DI. Public Image, 5%

This portion of the score is based upon your ability to attend all required events and interact professionally with patrons and Mr. Ohio Leather Contest personnel.

All contestants should arrive at all scheduled appointments and events at least fifteen (15) minutes early. Any contestant who arrives late may be subject to scoring penalization.

Awards & Expectations

1. Contest Winners
    a. Cash Prize/Travel Fund (distributed in two installments, see below)
    b. The Mr. Ohio Leather Sash
    c. Various gift cards and gear donated by vendors and sponsors
2. All Contestants will receive free entry to the Nashty™ Dark Dance on the night of the contest

A. Titleholder Expectations

The Mr. Ohio Leather Contest requires each titleholder to sign a contract with Nashty™ prior to the disbursement of any prize money. Refusal or failure to sign the contract will result in forfeiture of title and all prize money. All contestants are expected to be familiar with the content, requirements, and obligations of the title for the duration of the title year.

Cash awards and other elements of the prize package will be disbursed to the winnter upon signing a contract with Nashty™. Contractual obligations of the Mr. Ohio Leather Contest title year include attendance at the Mr. Ohio Leather Contest in 2027. Each titleholder must maintain a cellular phone with an active phone number and service and an active email address for the entirety of their title year.

B. Titleholder Obligations

Winning Mr. Ohio Leather gives you the opportunity to represent Ohio for a year. In addition the titleholder will be expected to meet the following during their title year:

1. Titleholder will be required to apply for and compete at IML the spring after their title year concludes. Nashty™ will serve as the official sponsor of the titleholder and pay any application fees for the contests. (An application must be filed even if entry is not guaranteed as per new IML rules outlined on 9/18/26.)
2. Must maintain active community engagement, attending community events, and maintaining a regular social media presence throughout their title year.
3. The Sash or Back Patch must be worn at all official Mr. Ohio Leather events, pride celebrations, and leather community appearances throughout the title year.
4. Must support a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization of their choice, upon approval of the Mr. Ohio Leather Executive Producer, through donated time, assistance, or fundraising.
5. Produce a minimum of one fundraiser or charity event during their title year.
6. At the time of step-aside at the Mr. Ohio Leather Contest, the outgoing titleholders will be required to hand the Mr. Ohio Leather sash to the new titleholder in 2027.

Should Mr. Ohio Leather be unable to fulfill their title obligations, be stripped of the title for any reason, or voluntarily step down, all prizes and materials (Cash, Sash, and Back Patch) must be returned to the Executive Producer in a timely fashion.

Terms & Conditions

The Mr. Ohio Leather Contest reserves the right to make amendments to this Contest Handbook at any time. All contestants will be notified where the amended Contest Handbook may be accessed and the date changes will take effect within 48 hours of any amendment.

Matters not covered by this Contest Handbook shall be addressed immediately and any necessary decisions will be made by the Owners, the Executive Producer, or another designated representative of Nashty™. Their decisions will be final and binding.