

The Arizona Master/slave Contest Handbook for Contestants



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Basic Philosophy for the Arizona Master / slave Contest, Titles, and Titleholders

The Owners/Producers of the Arizona Master/slave Contest are committed to providing the leather/BDSM community with an Arizona Master and an Arizona slave who will represent the Master/slave community and lifestyle with integrity and competence. The holders of the Arizona Master and Arizona slave titles will be spokespersons for the Arizona Master/slave community. One of the most important attributes of the titleholders will be the ability to clearly and effectively communicate what it means to them to live and identify as Master or slave.

It is expected that the titleholders will take every opportunity to educate the leather/BDSM community on the Master/slave lifestyle, and will actively seek out venues that will allow them to speak on Master/slave issues. Speaking on those issues can be through speeches, seminar presentations, participation on panel discussions, writing articles, etc.

The Arizona Master and slave titles are not about a particular physical appearance, traditional attractiveness, dress, body type, gender or sexual orientation. There is no required set of protocols that Arizona Master and slave are expected to follow.

Contestants are not required to have a formal platform. However, questions from the judges regarding specific plans, goals, or platforms the contestants may have are quite appropriate.



Eligibility Requirements for Contestants

1. A contestant pair must self-identify as Master and slave. Both the terms “Master” and “slave” are used by the Arizona Master/slave Contest and its Owners/Producers as gender-neutral and not indicative of any particular sexual orientation or gender presentation.
2. A contestant pair must have been in a self-identified Master/slave or Owner/property relationship with each other for at least 1 year prior to running for the Arizona Master/slave title.
3. The winning contestant pair is required to enter and run for the Southwest Regional Master/slave contest at Southwest Leather Conference in January of the following year. This will require submitting an application, photograph and biography for the Southwest Leather Conference website and program.
4. Contestant pairs must both live within the state of Arizona and be considered residents of the State of Arizona as determined by the following:
 - Work in Arizona (other than for seasonal agricultural work) – or–
 - Are registered to vote in Arizona –or–
 - Place children in school without paying the tuition rate of a nonresident –or–
 - Have a business that has an office in Arizona, and that bases and operates vehicles in this state –or–
 - Obtain a state license or pay school tuition fees at the same rate as an Arizona resident –or–
 - Have a business that operates vehicles to transport goods or passengers within Arizona –or–

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- Remain in Arizona for a total of 7 months or more during any calendar year, regardless of your permanent residence.
 - Out-of-state students enrolled with 7 or more semester hours, are not considered Arizona residents, regardless of employment.
 - Active duty military personnel based in Arizona who qualify for exemption under the Service Members Civil Relief Act of 2003 are not considered Arizona residents.
5. The pair must complete and submit their application no later than September 1ST of the contest year.
 6. A total of no more than 5 contestant pairs will be allowed to participate in any contest.
 7. In the event that more than five contestant pairs submit applications prior to September 1st, the first five pairs will be chosen to compete.
 8. An Arizona M/s contestant pair is not required to go through a contest or other selection process in order to compete.
 9. If a contestant pair does not win the Arizona Master/slave contest, the pair may re-enter the following year.
 10. If a contestant pair competes and wins the Arizona Master/slave contest but does not win the Southwest Leather title, that pair must wait at least 3 years to enter and compete in the Arizona Master/slave contest in any subsequent year.
 11. The pair must have been selected by the Arizona M/s contest as the current title year's Arizona Master/slave titleholders and must still hold that title at the time of the Southwest Leather Regional M/s Contest.
 12. Arizona Master/slave titleholders must agree that during the period between submitting an application to compete in the Arizona M/s Contest and the contest itself, they will not engage in

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interviews with or appear in “vanilla” mainstream media (whether print, television, film, radio or internet based) without the express written consent of the Owners/Producers of the Arizona M/s Contest.

13. In the event a winning pair cannot go on to the Southwest Leather M/s contest, and if the Arizona Master/slave contest owners choose to select a replacement pair, the title must be withdrawn from the original Arizona Master/slave titleholders who cannot compete and be awarded to the replacement pair.
14. In the event that the Arizona Master/slave titleholders win the Southwest Regional M/s Contest in January, there will be no replacement Arizona Master/slave titleholders declared for that title year.
15. In the case of a contestant pair requiring translating services, the contestant pair agrees to provide these services at their own expense.
16. The Arizona Master/slave titleholders agree to book a minimum of six (6) presentations and/or appearances through their Arizona Producers, and present a minimum of 3 times at APEX community events. The Arizona Master/slave titleholders further agree to assist as necessary in sponsor promotions.
17. Each contestant pair is required to bring a single item basket or baskets to the Arizona Master/slave Contest to be auctioned off. The item need not be large or expensive, but instead, should be something that represents their relationship, community, or the spirit of their relationship. The decision on what constitutes a single item or small basket is within the sole discretion of the owners of the Arizona Master/slave Contest. The proceeds raised from the auction will go to the Arizona Master/slave Titleholder travel fund.



Expectations and Requirements for the Arizona Master/slave Titleholders

1. In order to serve as the Arizona titleholders, a contestant pair must be willing to travel to a minimum of 6 Leather, BDSM, or M/s group meetings or events to present on Master/slave relationships and/or to represent the titles. Two of the events must be the next year's Southwest Leather Conference and the next year's Arizona Master and slave Contest.
2. The contestants run for and win the Arizona Master and slave titles as a pair. Should one (or both) members of the winning pair become unable to carry out the requirements of the title, the Owners/Producers will determine in what manner the title will be represented for the remainder of the year in question.
3. The Arizona titleholders are strongly encouraged to attend more than the minimum number of groups/events and to seek out every opportunity to speak on Master/slave relationships.
4. The Arizona titleholders must be willing to speak on Master/slave relationships to all segments of the Leather/BDSM community. In addition, the Arizona titleholders are encouraged to select venues and attend events that offer them the opportunity to speak on Master/slave relationships, rather than to simply appear as titleholders.
5. The Arizona titleholders may accept additional monetary support from groups, event sponsors or individuals to cover travel expenses. Titleholders may raise additional money to cover travel expenses through fundraising activities. The Arizona titleholders may not receive payment above and beyond actual travel expenses for speaking engagements or other activities performed in their role as Arizona Master and slave during the title year.

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6. The Arizona titleholders will be provided with a travel fund in an amount determined by the Owners/Producers.
7. The travel fund will be disbursed by the Owners/Producers to the Arizona titleholders.
8. The Arizona titleholders are required to submit to the Owners/Producers a quarterly financial report with supporting receipts on the use of the travel fund and any other funds raised or received during the title year to help defray travel expenses.
9. If the Arizona titleholders are unable to carry out the requirements of the title, any unspent travel funds will be returned to Arizona Master/slave Contest, along with a financial accounting of funds that have been spent to date.
10. The Arizona titleholders are required to provide the Owners/Producers with at least a monthly report identifying the speaking engagements they have booked. At a minimum, the report should include the event or group name, location and date of engagement.
11. Master/slave pairs who compete for the Arizona Master/slave title must agree not to compete for or hold another title within the Leather, BDSM and/or M/s community, together or individually, during their State title year. If they are chosen at the Regional or International level, the Master/slave titleholder must agree not to compete for or hold another title within the Leather, BDSM and/or M/s community, together or individually, during their Regional or I M/s title year.
12. During their title year, the Arizona titleholders may not charge a fee for participating in BDSM activity, whether sexual or non-sexual in nature. This does not prevent the Arizona titleholders from engaging in fundraising activities for charities or for the Arizona Master/slave title that may include BDSM.

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13. The Arizona M/s titleholders may not make any representations on behalf of, or purport to bind, the Owners/Producers of the Arizona Master/slave Contest without the prior consent of the Owners/Producers.
14. The Arizona M/s titleholders are representatives of the Arizona M/s community. As such, the titleholders must protect the title and community from unfavorable publicity or focus. This means titleholders may not be able to participate in activities or take positions that they otherwise were free to do before winning the titles. Examples include: appearing as an expert witness in a trial on the issue of what constitutes abuse in the M/s community; agreeing to be interviewed by mainstream media regarding the Arizona Master/slave title and the Leather and/or M/s community; taking a lead position on issues of significant controversy in the Leather and/or M/s community. Any questions regarding whether or not an activity could unfavorably impact the title should be immediately directed to the Owners/Producers. The decision of the Owners/Producers will be final on these matters.
15. The Owners/Producers reserve the right to recall the title from current or previous Arizona titleholders if, in their sole judgment, the titleholders have failed to substantially comply with or fulfill the obligations of the title, or have in any way damaged the name or reputation of the Arizona Master/slave title.
16. The Arizona Master/slave titleholders are permitted to use the title "Arizona Master/slave [title year]" in perpetuity, provided the Owners/Producers have not exercised their right to recall the title as described above. The current Arizona Master/slave titleholders are permitted to use the Arizona Master/slave logo on business cards and stationary or on a personal website for the term of their title year. Any other use of the title name or the Arizona M/s logo must be approved by the Owners/Producers in advance. The Owners/Producers retain the right to review any use of the Arizona Master/slave logo and to rescind permission to use the logo for any reason and at their sole discretion.



Scoring

1. There are five judges for the Arizona Master/slave Contest. All scores will be applied to each contestant pair. The score from each judge will be tabulated and an average computed for each category. The contestants' averaged scores for the five categories then will be added to give a final overall score. A perfect overall score would be 500. The contestant pair with the highest overall score using this averaged scoring will be the winner.
2. If a judge becomes incapacitated during the Arizona Master/slave Contest, or if for any reason the Owners/Producers in their sole discretion determine a judge is unable or unwilling to carry out his/her duties as a judge, that judge will be withdrawn from the Contest and his/her scores will be discarded. The remaining judges will continue to score the Contest under the tabulated and averaged scoring system. The Owners/Producers reserve the sole right to define the duties of a judge of the Arizona Master/slave Contest and to determine if a judge is able and/or willing to carry out those duties. The Owners/Producers further retain the right to remove from the judging panel any judge who, in their sole judgment, is unable carry out those duties.
3. Contestants for the Arizona Master/slave Contest will be given a joint score in all categories, as well as a joint overall score, rather than assigning separate scores for the Master and slave. Thus, the points indicated in parentheses following each judging category described in the next section represent the total maximum points a Master/slave pair may be awarded in that category, based on the performance of both the Master and the slave. For example, for the On-Stage Pop Question category, the Master and slave contestant pair will receive a single, joint score of up to 75 points based on their responses to the questions they are asked.

4. In the event of a tie score between two or more contestant pairs, the winning pair will be the one with the highest overall score, without using the averaged scoring. Thus, in the event of a tie, the scores of the tied pairs in each of the 5 contest categories will be recalculated, without averaging scores. The pair with the highest overall composite score will be the winner.

5. If there is only one contestant pair running for the title, the pair must receive a final overall score equal to 70% of the total possible. A perfect overall score would be 500; thus, the contestant pair must receive a final overall score of 350 in order to win the titles.



The Structure of the Arizona Master/slave Contest

The contest is designed to duplicate the structure of the Regional and International Master/slave contests so that our titleholders are comfortable and have experienced the rigors and intensity of a multi-day contest format.

The contest begins on Friday night at 7:00 pm with introductions for each pair, and the drawing of numbers for each pair. This is followed by a social, informal meet-and-greet of contestants, attendees, supporters and judges.

Saturday morning includes interviews with a break for lunch. Presentations are conducted in the afternoon with an extended break for each contestant pair to rest and prepare for the final evening events.

Saturday evening includes the 2 minute speech by each contestant and the Pop-Question and word association segment.

The winning contestant pair is determined on Saturday evening.

After the presentations and before dinner the contestant pairs, producers, and judges will meet for photographs.

Sunday includes an afternoon congratulatory gathering of all contestant pairs with an Open-House B-B-Q.

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The Arizona Master/slave Contest is made up of five judging categories: Interview; Presentation; Speech; Pop Question and M/s Dynamic. Each of these categories is described in greater detail under the “Judging Categories” section of this Handbook.

1. In addition to their performance in the five judging categories, two other aspects of the Arizona M/s Contest will impact a contestant pair’s score:
 - a. Meeting Contest deadlines/complying with Contest rules: Contestants are required to meet all Contest deadlines, including but not limited to timely submittal of the Contest Application and information on the item the contestants are required to submit for the Silent Auction, and attendance at all required Contest rehearsals and meetings. Failure to comply with any Contest rule or deadline will be reported to the judging panel by the Owners/Producers. The judges may use this information as a part of the interview of the contestant pairs and may factor this information into their scoring of the contestant pairs at their discretion.
 - b. During the Friday night Meet-and-Greet, after drawing their contestant numbers, the contestant pairs will be given the opportunity to introduce themselves on stage. Each pair will have a maximum of 2 minutes total to make their introduction. The form and content of the introduction is up to the contestant pair; however, props or sets of any kind are not permitted.
2. Each contestant pair is expected to exhibit the behaviors constituting good sportsmanship and fair competition. This includes:
 - a. Refraining from engaging with judges about the contest via email and social media, private social contact and private communications.

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- b. Maintaining professional standards of respectful behavior towards judges, other contestants and the Owners/sponsors of the Arizona Master/slave contest

- c. Modeling the concepts of honor, integrity and respect once your application has been accepted and the Owners/Producers announce your participation as a contestant pair.



Judging Categories

Interview with Judges (150 points total per contestant pair)

The goal of the interview is to allow each judge to evaluate each contestant pair as a Master/slave couple. Judges questions should be designed to provide each judge a strong basis for determining the ability of each pair to accurately represent themselves as the Arizona Master/slave titleholders.

Questions may address anything but should focus on the contestant pair's Master/slave relationship philosophy and practices.

Be prepared to answer questions that may be considered personal in nature, including questions of financial stability, family life, children, and work/home/lifestyle balance.

The judges will be evaluating each contestant pair on your direct and indirect Master/slave dynamic, your philosophies and practices as well as observing individual and couple behaviors.

The teaching aspect of this title often requires couples to answer a variety of questions posed by casual, mainstream individuals, as well as those interested in, or living, as Master/slave. This category provides an opportunity for you to demonstrate your ability and comfort level in addressing issues that are often asked of Master and slave couples.

Speech (100 points total per contestant pair)

The speech is designed to provide an opportunity to assess each contestant pair's ability to appear in public, speak clearly to an audience in order to communicate a point and appropriately represent the title of Arizona Master/slave.

A contestant's appearance, speaking style and on-stage presence as an individual and a couple is considered.

1. Both the Master and the slave are required to give a short speech, with each speech being 2 minutes or less on the topic(s) of their choice during the Saturday night contest.
2. If a contestant's speech exceeds 2 minutes, the contestant will be allowed to continue and the judges will be notified that the contestant went over time. There is no set "penalty" for a contestant going overtime in a speech. In awarding a joint score for the Master/slave contestant pair in this category, a judge may elect to deduct the points he or she feels are appropriate in light of the fact that a contestant failed to conclude the speech within the time limit allowed by these rules.

Each individual of the Arizona Master/slave couple is expected to be able to speak well and represent the individual component of the M/s dynamic as an individual and a couple. This category provides an opportunity for each couple to expand the visibility of the individual within the M/s dynamic.

Presentation (100 points total per contestant pair)

The presentation category is designed to judge the contestants' ability to speak in a seminar or panel discussion type format on Master/slave relationships. The contestants are required to make a brief (no more than 10 minutes) presentation on any topic relating to Master/slave relationships. Both the Master and the slave must speak during the presentation.

Presentations should be evaluated on a pair's ability to relate to the audience; the contestant's ability to communicate to an audience; and the effectiveness with which a contestant pair interacts with and connects to an audience.

1. Contestants are permitted to use handouts or visual aids in their presentations, but are not required to do so.
2. The judges will decide as a group if they will sit in the audience or remain seated at the judging table(s) during the presentations.
3. Before beginning the presentation session, the Head Judge will remind the audience that questions should relate to the topic of a contestant pair's presentation. At the end of a contestant pair's presentation, the Head Judge will call for questions from the audience and will serve as the "moderator," recognizing audience members to ask their questions.
4. Judges will not ask questions of the contestant pairs in this judging category unless there are no questions from the audience. If the judges have the opportunity to ask questions of the contestant pairs in this category, the judges should limit their questions to those relating to the presentation topic. The judging panel may not use this opportunity as additional general interview time.
5. The Head Judge will monitor the question and answer time, and his or her decision on the propriety of a question from the audience or

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judges is final. The time for questions and answers will not exceed 10 minutes for any contestant pair.

6. The purpose of allowing audience questions during the Presentation Category is to allow the judges to evaluate the contestants' ability to think on their feet and respond to the kind of questions likely to be asked of the titleholders when they speak on Master/slave relationships to community leather/BDSM groups. It is not intended as an opportunity for the audience to "sandbag" any contestant pair or to attempt to help out one contestant pair at the expense of another. ***If the Head Judge suspects this is occurring, audience members may be asked to leave the presentations.***
7. The Presentation session is open to all persons wishing to attend the event and pay the appropriate admission fee, if applicable.

This category is designed to showcase your skills and abilities as educators and presenters.

This is a teaching title, and as such, an ability to communicate to others your philosophy, beliefs and experiences within the Master/slave dynamic, is important to demonstrate.

On-stage Pop Question (75 points total per contestant pair)

This portion of the contest is designed to showcase each contestant pair's ability to speak extemporaneously (off-the-cuff) and respond to an audience while representing themselves as Master/slave.

1. On-stage presence, personality and the pertinence of the answer should be considered.
2. Both the Master and the slave will be asked an on-stage or pop question, which they must answer during the Saturday night contest.
3. These kinds of questions often evoke humorous responses from contestants.
4. Be prepared to provide silly answers as well as address hypothetical what-if situational quandaries or provide an opinion on controversial issues that are current.
5. As a potential Arizona Master/slave titleholder, it helps to be informed on the larger social issues within the BDSM and Leather communities as well as the trends within the Master/slave communities.
6. You will be representing the M/s community within the State of Arizona. The pop question category provides insight into how you, as individuals and as a couple, will represent the larger Arizona M/s community.

Master/slave Dynamic (75 points total per contestant pair)

This category is designed to evaluate the interpersonal relationship between Master and slave, and how they present themselves publicly, privately and in formal and informal situations.

1. Contestants will be observed by the judges throughout the weekend, both in and out of formal contest events, and will be judged on how they interact and present themselves as Master and slave to the public.
2. Judging in this category begins Friday evening, when the contestant pairs introduce themselves and draw their numbers. The judging sheet for this category will be turned in at the end of the contest on Saturday night, after the pop question, to be tallied with the scores of the other categories.
3. No particular protocol or form of dress is considered to be “correct.”
4. This category is an opportunity to demonstrate your Master/slave relationship dynamic in its natural setting, and that it is comfortable for each of you, rather than something assumed for the weekend or public events.
5. This is an opportunity to demonstrate the authenticity and model consciously and unconsciously your Master/slave relationship.
6. Contests can be stressful situations, and it is natural to experience disagreements, conflict and exaggerated behaviors. This category provides you and the judges an opportunity to evaluate how you use the Master/slave relationship in these situations.