

Arizona Master/slave Contest Handbook for Judges



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

The Owners/Producers of the Arizona Master/slave Contest (Arizona Power Exchange) 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, and as such, one of the most important attributes of the titleholders should 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 holders of the titles 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, whether that be through speeches, seminar presentations, participation on panel discussions, writing articles, etc.

The Arizona Master and slave titles are not about a particular “look,” dress, body type, gender or sexual orientation. There is no required set of protocols that an Arizona Master and slave are expected to follow.

Contestants are not required to have a formal “platform”; however, questions from the judges during the Interview portion of the contest regarding any specific plans or goals the contestants might have should they win the titles are quite appropriate.



Requirements and Expectations for Contestants and Titleholders

1. All contestants competing in the Arizona M/s Contest must be at least 21 years of age
2. The contestant couple must self-identify as Master/Owner or slave/property for a minimum of one year prior to the date of the Arizona Master/slave contest
3. Each person must reside within the State of Arizona, and meet eligibility requirements for residency as determined by the Arizona Department of Transportation as follows:

Resident Definition

You are considered an Arizona resident if you meet any of the following conditions:

- 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–
- Remain in Arizona for a total of 7 months or more during any calendar year, regardless of your permanent residence.

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- 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.
4. The pair must complete and submit their application no later than September 1ST of the contest year.
 5. A total of no more than 5 contestant pairs will be allowed to participate in any contest.
 6. In the event that more than five contestant pairs submit applications prior to September 1st, the first five pairs will be chosen to compete.
 7. An Arizona M/s Contestant pair is not required to go through a contest or other selection process in order to compete.
 8. If a contestant pair does not win the Arizona Master/slave contest, the pair may re-enter the following year.
 9. If a contestant pair competes and wins the Arizona Master/slave contest, that pair, either as individuals and/or as a pair, is not eligible to petition or to compete in the Arizona Master/slave contest in any subsequent year.
 10. 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.
 11. Arizona Master/slave titleholders must agree that during the period between submitting an application to compete in the Arizona M/s Contest, they will not engage in interviews with or appear in "vanilla" mainstream media (whether print, television, film, radio or

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internet based) without the express written consent of the Owners/Producers of the Arizona M/s Contest.

12. 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.
13. 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.
14. In the case of a contestant pair requiring translating services, the contestant pair agrees to provide these services at their own expense.
15. The Arizona Master/slave titleholders agree to attend and/or teach at a minimum of four events throughout their title year with two of these events being APEX community events.
16. Each contestant pair is required to bring a single item or a small “basket” to the Arizona Master/slave Contest to be auctioned. 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.

The Arizona Master/slave Contest is a feeder contest for the Regional Southwest Master/slave Contest, held during Southwest Leather Conference in Phoenix, AZ in January each year.

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Winning contestants must be able to compete in the SWLC Master/slave contest in January of the next year.



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 titles, 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.



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. 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.

- Questions should be directed to both the Master and the slave. A single judge does not have to ask both the Master and slave a question, but the judging panel as a whole should endeavor to insure that both contestants are being asked and are answering questions.
- Given the nature of this title, questions are likely to focus on Master/slave relationships and issues in these relationships. However, questions addressing broader leather/BDSM topics or history are also appropriate.
- Remember: a good answer is not necessarily an answer you agree with.
- Suggested criteria for judging include:
 - Are the contestants able to think on their feet and give an appropriate answer to the question asked?
 - Are the answers clear and understandable?
 - Are the answers factually correct? (If applicable.)

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- Does the body language of the contestants reinforce the answer or does it detract from the message?
 - Do the contestants seem reasonably relaxed and engaged in responding to the questions?
 - Do the contestants' answers indicate passion and enthusiasm about the possibility of representing the Master/slave community as titleholders?
 - Do the contestants demonstrate that they self-identify as a Master/Owner or a slave/property?
 - Do the contestants exhibit a general understanding of the history and purpose of the Master/slave contest?
 - How do the contestants field difficult or sensitive questions?
 - How do the contestant pair interact with one another?
 - In what ways do the contestants model their dynamic?
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- The Judges' Interviews are open to all persons wishing to attend the event and pay the appropriate admission fee, if applicable.

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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 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 should be taken into consideration.

- 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.
- 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, but in awarding a joint score for the Master/slave contestant pair in this category, a judge may elect to deduct however many 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.
- Suggested criteria for judging include:
 - Do the contestants speak clearly?
 - Do the contestants use appropriate gestures and body language that help communicate the message of their speeches?
 - Are the speeches well organized and understandable?
 - Do the contestants demonstrate through their speeches passion and enthusiasm about the possibility of representing the Master/slave community as titleholders?
 - Is the on-stage presence of contestants consistent with the atmosphere of the contest, i.e., dress and comportment are appropriate for setting and time of day?

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- Do the contestants use their speech and appearance to further communicate their personal dynamic and individual personalities?

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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.

- Contestants are permitted to use handouts or visual aids in their presentations, but are not required to do so.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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.***

- Suggested criteria for judging include:
 - Is the presentation organized and understandable?
 - Do the contestants speak clearly and use appropriate gestures and body language to communicate their message?
 - Does the content of the presentation demonstrate that the contestants have given some thought to the message they are trying to communicate?
 - Are the contestants comfortable with answering audience questions and do they give organized and understandable responses?
 - Do the contestants engage the audience?
 - How does their presentation enhance their dynamic as a Master/slave couple?
 - Is the overall presentation effective?
 - If handouts or audio/visual aids are incorporated, are they used appropriately?

- The Presentation session is open to all persons wishing to attend the event and pay the appropriate admission fee, if applicable.

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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 as while representing themselves as Master/slave.

On-stage presence, personality and the pertinence of the answer should be considered.

Both the Master and the slave will be asked an on-stage or “pop” question, which they must answer during the Saturday night contest. These kinds of questions often evoke humorous responses from contestants.

- The questions will be written and provided by the producers of the Arizona Master/slave Contest, with input from the judging panel.
- Judges are asked to submit two questions each. It is suggested that at least one question is designed to elicit a humorous response and one question is designed to offer thoughtful commentary.
- Suggested criteria for judging include:
 - Do the contestants speak clearly?
 - Do the contestants look comfortable being asked to respond to a question without time to prepare?
 - Do the answers demonstrate a quality or characteristic that would be an asset to the titleholders, such as humor, logical thinking, knowledge in a particular subject area, etc.?
 - How do the contestants present as individuals and a Master/slave couple while on stage?

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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.

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.

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, to be tallied with the scores for the other categories.

- No particular protocol or form of dress is considered to be “correct.”
- Suggested criteria for judging include:
 - Do the contestants appear to be comfortable interacting with each other and the public as Master and slave?
 - Does the dynamic appear to be natural for the contestants, or does it appear to be something created for the contest?
 - How do the contestants interact with other contestant pairs and with contest attendees?



The Arizona Master/slave Titleholder Travel Fund

The Arizona Master/slave contestant pairs are required to bring a single item or “basket” to Arizona M/s Contest to be auctioned off. The item need not be large or expensive, but instead, should be something that represents their relationship, their state or the spirit of their contest. 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.



Producers’ Guarantee for the Titleholders

The owners and the producers of Arizona Master/slave Contest guarantee the titleholders the following:

- Winners’ back patches
- A travel fund consisting of all amounts raised from the Auction and any other funds donated by groups or individuals to the Arizona Master/slave Travel Fund or designated by the Arizona Master and slave Contest
- Entry fees for the Southwest Regional Master/slave Contest