

Mr. & Ms NJ Leather 2017

Contestant Rules

CONTEST FEE:

Applications postmarked prior to and including Friday, October 7, 2016, must be accompanied by a twenty-five dollar (\$25) Contestant Fee. Contestant applications presented after October 7 require a thirty-five dollar (\$35) Contestant Fee. In person applications are to be paid by cash or money order - **no personal checks accepted after Friday, September 30, 2016. No credit cards will be accepted.** All checks are to be made payable to: **DRAGONSLAIR Productions** and mailed to **26 Tucker Drive, Neptune City, NJ 07753.**

IMPORTANT NOTES:

Do not mail the application form after Friday, October 7, 2016. Any submissions after that date must be ***in person*** and the contestant fee for this type of registration will not be discounted. "In-person" contestant registrations may be arranged either with one of the producers by advance appointment, to take place no later than 10 pm on Thursday, October 20. *Any exceptions to this schedule **must** be arranged with the producers prior to October 20, 2016.*

If you have any questions, call Sal at 732-857-0781, or email at:

salsusino@aol.com

REQUIREMENTS:

This contest is an event of the American gay & lesbian community: Therefore, all contestants should be American (U.S. citizen or permanent resident), and **must** be at least 21 years of age and should self-identify as gay/lesbian. The Mr. NJ Leather Contest is open to all gay leather men & the Ms. NJ Leather Contest is open to all lesbian leather women who are full or part time (producer's discretion) residents of the State of New Jersey. While all are welcome to attend, this is not open to bisexual or heterosexual contestants.

SUGGESTIONS:

It is recommended that contestants try to arrive early at the "Meet & Greet" venue on the Friday evening of the contest weekend. DRAGONSLAIR Productions does not provide hotel accommodations for contestants. It is mandatory that all contestants are available from 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 22 until the end of the contest (somewhere around 10 p.m.).

Some contestants will have a sponsor helping to defray some or all of their expenses. Some contestants do not have sponsors and may find that even the relatively modest expense of attending the contest weekend to be a financial burden. If you wish to be a contestant, it is recommended that you try to find a "sponsor" to help you with your expenses. Your local bar, local leather club, or other gay business or organization may be interested in becoming your sponsor. It is an easy and relatively inexpensive way for your sponsor to get publicity - sponsors are mentioned on stage. The sponsor of a titleholder gets even more publicity as the titleholder travels. Sponsoring a contestant can also serve as focal point for unifying an organization's members and patrons.

JUDGING METHOD:

The judges are titleholders and/or other prominent members of the leather community. In order to ensure fairness in selecting the winners of the contest, the Olympic Scoring System will be used. In the event of a tie, the non-Olympic scores (without the high/low exclusions) will be used to determine the winner. If both the Olympic and non-Olympic scores are tied, the judging panel will meet to break the tie. The Tally Master's final scoring sheet may be examined, upon request by contestants immediately following the contest and copies of their final scoring will be mailed to contestants at their request. Contestants and judges will be identified on the scoring sheets only by their numbers and letters (respectively). Keep in mind that judges do not necessarily look for the most handsome face, most muscular and/or erotic body, but rather the person who best typifies the ideal leatherman/woman. This involves the personal subjective judgment of each contestant's leather image, physical appearance, attitude, personality, self-assurance, and "presence".

The producers reserve the right to limit the number of contestants and/or impose an early elimination cut based upon partial judging to ensure the contest will be completed within the time frame allowed at the contest venue.

FRATERNIZATION WITH JUDGES:

Contestants and judges may fraternize informally in *public* situations. **Private meetings between judges and contestants during the contest weekend are absolutely prohibited. Any personal sexual contact between judges and contestants during the contest weekend are absolutely prohibited.** Any behavior that might create even the appearance of bias will be brought to the attention of the other judges, who will decide if the disqualification of the judge and/or contestant would be prudent. To avoid accidental violation of propriety, all contestants and judges **must** display their respective identification badges whenever they are in public places during the contest weekend.

The producers recognize that the nature of the gay/lesbian leather community in a state the size of New Jersey allows many of us to know one another in a variety of ways. In the interest of fairness, the current Mr. & Ms NJ Leather will only score contestants of opposite gender.

JUDGING CATEGORIES:

Special Note:

Under State of New Jersey law, no genitalia shall be shown in public, or in pre-judging interviews.

There will be 6 judged categories - 200 points maximum:

Friday "Meet & Greet" Networking: (Maximum 30 points)

Contestants will be observed by judges during the Friday evening "Meet & Greet" event, in an effort to begin to learn how each behaves and reacts in a social situation with other members of their community.

Interview and Pre-judging: (Maximum 60 points)

Individually, contestants will meet with the full panel of judges and respond to whatever questions asked. This interview will take place in private (off stage), without any audience. Attire should be comfortable, casual leather wear.

On-Stage Contestant Introduction: (Maximum 30 points)

Contestants will appear on stage in bar wear of their choice. They will be introduced to the audience and just make a brief statement (2 minutes max.) about themselves, their involvement in the leather community, and how they would represent their new title if they are chosen as the winner.

Fantasy On-Stage: (Maximum 30 points)

Contestants will appear on stage in the leather wear (or simple fantasy costume) of their choice. Contestants may act out or recite their fantasy to the audience. Contestants are allowed no more than two (2) minutes to set up the props and two (2) minutes to remove the props. The fantasy enactment or recital should take at least two (2) but no more than five (5) minutes. This will be strictly enforced - practice to ensure timing! Set-up and breakdown will not count toward the five minute time limits. The fantasy may be erotic, but not necessary. If a contestant has music to go with their fantasy, they should provide the CD or cassette to the producers as soon as possible.

(FOR MEN) Jock Strap On-Stage: (Maximum 20 points)

Contestants will appear in what they feel to be their "hottest" jock strap. Unlike many other contests, this segment is not an "exotic fashion show" or "body competition", but an exploration of our leather lifestyle, and will be judged as such. Each contestant should try to emphasize, by their choice of a jock strap, what they think looks the "hottest" to the audience and judges.

(FOR WOMEN) Hot Wear On-Stage: (Maximum 20 points)

Contestants will appear in what they feel to be their "hottest" leather/BDSM/fetish attire. Similar to the men's segment, this is also not an "exotic fashion show" or "body competition", but an exploration of our leather lifestyle, and will be judged as such. Each contestant should choose garments that best reflect their leather background and "attitude," so as to convey a clear message about themselves and their desires to the audience and judges.

Formal Leather Image: (Maximum 30 points)

Contestants will appear on stage in formal leather attire of their choice, will be asked a predetermined question by the emcee, and will give an answer not to exceed two minutes.

Single Contestants

In the event that either the Mr. or Ms NJ Leather competitions are limited to a single contestant, that contestant must score a minimum of 75% of the total possible points (150 out of 200). Should a contestant in this situation fail to earn the minimum number of points required, the title in question will not be awarded. The producers reserve the right to deviate from this procedure if they feel the circumstances warrant further consideration.

ADDITIONAL FANTASY COMMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS

Violation of these constraints may disqualify your fantasy score, and may also disqualify you from the contest

We **strongly** suggest that you practice the timing of the stage set-up, fantasy, and break-down. We would hate to have to interrupt a fantasy or disqualify a contestant's fantasy score because the time limits were exceeded.

No more than two (2) on stage helpers are allowed to *participate* in your fantasy; however, if necessary, you may have up to two (2) additional, non-participating people on stage, as long as they are there only as "props", not as active participants. Such "human props" must be fully clothed, may not have direct contact with the contestant, and may not use any "eye-catching" actions or attire.

Use of "human-props" must be requested to the producers in advance of the contest. All on-stage helpers must sign a "photographic release", and anything that could create a safety hazard or alter the stage condition after the clean-up **MUST** be discussed with the producers in advance of the contest. The producers reserve the right to require additional precautions or to disqualify any fantasy, which may create a safety hazard or alter the stage conditions. For example, any use of flame (candles, torches, etc.) will require the contestant to provide a least two (2) additional off-stage helpers with two (2) small fire extinguishers in case the flame gets out of control. Smoke or fog generators of any kind require advance permission. The use of water or any other substance that may alter the condition of the stage requires advance permission for the producers to ensure 100% cleanup can be accomplished in the allotted time frame. Sharp weapons or instruments, firearms or other deadly weapons, large, and bulky props are strongly discouraged, as they cannot be stored at the contest venue. Contestants will be responsible for all hauling, transport, and storage of their props. Props of any kind may not be discarded at the contest venue. Use of minimal props is encouraged. Effective, clever, and appropriate use of minimal props may impress judges more than costly or bulky props. These do nothing to indicate your ability to improvise and the make the best use of materials at hand.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF THE WINNER:

The primary duty of the winners is to represent the leather/BDSM and gay communities of New Jersey and promote the Mr. & Ms NJ Leather titles as traveling ambassadors.

The winner of Mr. New Jersey Leather may choose to advance to regional, national, and/or international competitions. These include but are not limited to: American Leatherman (or leatherboy), Mid-Atlantic Drummer (or Drummerboy), International Mr. Leather (IML). Any additional regional, national, or international leather titles not mentioned may also be acceptable.

Ms New Jersey Leather may choose to move on to one of the following contests if she chooses: Mid-Atlantic Leatherwoman, American Leatherwoman, or International Ms. Leather. Any additional regional, national, or international leather titles not mentioned may also be acceptable.

Both Mr. & Ms New Jersey Leather **may not** compete for any titles which would be considered below the state level. This includes but is not limited to: bar titles, city/county titles, campground titles.

While **DRAGONSLAIR Productions** would be pleased to have the New Jersey titleholders advance to a higher level of competition within the greater leather community, it is also understood that issues of employment, finance, health, etc. may preclude titleholders from doing so responsibly or comfortably. We believe that the title year experience should be a positive one for both the titleholder and the community. We also believe that the most important obligation of our titleholders is to actively work to promote the leather lifestyle and the community within the State of New Jersey.

One of the foremost expectations **DRAGONSLAIR Productions** has of the winners, is that during their respective title years, they will conduct themselves as positive role models. Flagrant violation of this expectation may result in forfeiture of their titles.

In addition to raising funds to cover their own travels, the winners are encouraged to help with fund raising projects for worthy causes. **Both Mr. & Ms NJ Leather are expected to produce at least TWO benefits for a non-profit organization of their choice.** Please let us know what you are doing - maybe we can help!

During the title year, the titleholder is expected to attend the New Jersey LGBTI Pride event and all DRAGONSLAIR Productions fundraisers and events wearing sash or other appropriate title gear denoting their status as Mr. or Ms NJ Leather.

Mr. & Ms NJ Leather 2017

Contestant Application

ANY CONTESTANT APPLICATION NOT POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 7, 2016 MUST BE PRESENTED IN PERSON BEFORE 10 PM ON THURSDAY OCTOBER 20, 2016.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY:

STAGE NAME: _____

(Name by which you will be announced on stage, either real or any "stage name")

PREVIOUS TITLES: _____

SPONSOR (optional): _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: / / AGE: _____ HEIGHT: _____ WEIGHT: _____

HAIR COLOR: _____ EYE COLOR: _____

SPECIAL FEATURES: (tattoos, piercings, etc.) _____

CURRENT RELATIONSHIP: _____

(single, lover, master, slave, daddy, boy, mistress, dom, sub, etc.)

OCCUPATION: _____

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT: _____

HOBBIES: _____

SOMETHING ELSE ABOUT YOU PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW: _____

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION:

(WILL NOT BE ANNOUNCED ON STAGE)

Legal Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mailing Address (if different): _____

E-Mail Address: _____

PHOTO RELEASE & WAIVERS

By signing this application I am giving the producers of The Mr. / Ms New Jersey Leather Contest my permission to use my photos and likenesses in publicity, and on the Internet. In addition I am releasing the Producers, Judges and Staff of the Mr. / Ms NJ Leather Contest as well as the Management and Staff of the host venue of any liability that may occur during the contest or during my title year. In addition I testify that I am over the age of 21.

CONTEST APPLICATION

Please enclose an application fee of \$25 check or money order made out to DRAGONSLAIR Productions prior to October 7, 2016. If application is made after October 7, 2016, an application fee of \$35 **cash or money order only** is expected prior to the Pre-Judging of the contest.

In signing this application, I acknowledge that I have read and fully understand terms and conditions set forth in the Contestant Rules as posted on the Mr. & Ms NJ Leather Website (www.leathernjonline.com).

Signed (legal name only): _____

Date: / /

Witness (printed name): _____

Witness Signature: _____

Date: / /

Please mail this application with check or money order to:

DRAGONSLAIR Productions

26 Tucker Drive
Neptune City, NJ 07753

You can also contact **DRAGONSLAIR Productions** at (732) 857-0781 before 9 pm.