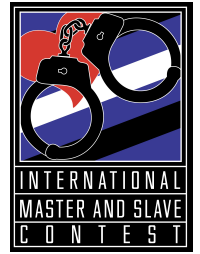




# ***Policies and Requirements for U.S. Regional Master/slave Contests as feeders to the The International Master/slave Contest***

***Owned and Produced by South Plains Leatherfest***



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*Updated: 11-17-2022*

## **Basic Philosophy for the International Master/slave Contest and Titles**

The International Master/slave Contest ("International") is owned by South Plains, LLC and produced by Tomo. The Owner/Producer is committed to providing the M/s and Leather/BDSM communities with an International Master and an International slave who will represent the Master/slave community and lifestyle with integrity and competence. The holders of the International Master and International slave titles will be spokespersons for the 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/slave or Owner/property.

The current set of five regions supporting the International Master/slave title has evolved over time. It has always been the policy of International that the ownership of a regional title resides with the event where production of the regional title was certified by International. In keeping with the concept of regional ownership, International has endeavored to keep to a minimum the policies and requirements that govern the participation of the regions in the International competition. This policy manual compiles the current policies and rules that apply to all regions.

## **Number of Regions**

1. International believes that since all states in the United States are included in one of the five existing regions, the current set of five regions is adequate to give all in the U.S. who are interested in competing for the International title an opportunity to do so. The five existing regions are: Northeast, Southeast, Southwest, Northwest, and Midwest (“the Regions”). The official map designating the states covered by each region is maintained at the South Plains Leatherfest website, [southplainsleatherfest.com](http://southplainsleatherfest.com).
2. International determines the configuration of all Regions.
3. Currently there are no international regions. A contestant pair residing outside of the United States may petition International for permission to compete for the International title. International reserves the right to grant or deny such a petition at its sole discretion.<sup>1</sup>
4. In the future, International may choose, at its discretion, to certify regions outside of the United States to send contestants to the International M/s Contest.

## **Ownership Rights**

1. The ownership rights to the Regional M/s titles reside with the event associated with that Region. The ownership rights to a Regional title are not transferable. If an event now producing a Regional title decides to end its production, ownership of that Regional title reverts to International until a new owner is selected by International.
2. If a Region ends production of the Regional title, International will seek proposals from parties interested in owning the title. Ownership of the Region may not be immediately transferred; International reserves the right to require a potential Regional contest owner to produce the Regional contest and provide a contestant pair for International for up to two (2) years before making a decision about transferring ownership.
3. If at any time, for any reason, a Region does not have a Regional contest owner or a potential owner under consideration, International reserves the right to determine how the states in that Region will be represented at the International contest.

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<sup>1</sup> Additional information regarding the process for international contestant pairs can be found in the documents “Policies and Requirements for International Master/slave Contestant Pairs from Outside of the U.S.” and the “International Contestant Petition to Compete at the International Master/slave Contest.” Both documents are available from International.

## **Requirements for Sending Pairs to International**

1. The goal is for each Region to send a contestant pair to the International Contest each year.
2. A pair representing a Regional title must reside within the Region at the time the pair competes at International.
3. If a Region does not send a contestant pair to International for two consecutive years, International will discuss with the Region the reason why contestant pairs have not been sent. If, in the judgment of International, there were no legitimate or compelling reasons for not sending a pair, then International reserves the right to decertify the Region and begin the process of moving the contest to new ownership.
4. If a Region selects a pair for the International competition and that pair is unable to compete for the International title, the Region must immediately notify International. If, in the judgment of International, the reason for the pair withdrawing was legitimate and compelling, then the inability of the Region to send a contestant pair to International that year will not be counted in the “two consecutive years” requirement.

## **Selection of Contestant Pairs**

1. Although International believes that a contest-based method of selection allows Regional contestant pairs to best prepare for the International competition, there is no requirement that the Regions select their contestants in this way, nor are the Regions required to use International’s contest structure and/or rules.
2. The Regions may use any method of selection they wish as long as the result does not conflict with International’s eligibility requirements for contestant pairs and it is designed to prepare contestant pairs for the International competition. International encourages the Regions to adopt methods of contestant pair selection that are transparent and consistent in order to promote trust in and support of the Regional and International titles from the M/s and Leather/BDSM communities.
3. If a Region chooses to use a method to select its contestants that is significantly different from the method described in International’s *Judges’ Handbook*, International asks that it be informed so that it can certify that the eligibility requirements to compete in International will be met by a pair winning that Regional title. If asked, International will also offer comments on the proposed method of selection.
4. The International Master/slave Contest is accessible, ethical and all contestants are treated with kindness and respect. International monitors the regional contests to be sure that they also have this level of integrity.

## **Eligibility of Contestant Pairs**

1. All contestants competing in the International M/s Contest must be at least 21 years of age, self-identify as Master/Owner or slave/property, live within the Region they represent, and have lived in a self-identified Master/slave or Owner/property relationship for at least one year prior to competing for the International M/s title.
2. If a contestant pair lives in the United States, the pair must have been selected by the Region in which they live as the current title year's Regional Master/slave titleholders and must still hold that Regional title at the time of the International M/s Contest in order to compete in the Contest. If the contestant pair lives outside of the United States, the pair may compete at the International M/s Contest without holding a Regional M/s title, at the discretion of International.
3. Only one pair can officially hold a Regional title. Regional titleholders for a subsequent year cannot assume the title until the current pair steps down.
4. Regional M/s titleholders must agree that during the period between submitting a petition to compete at International and the International M/s Contest, they will not engage in interviews with or appear in "vanilla" mainstream media (whether print, television, film, radio or internet based) without the express written consent of the Owner/Producer of the International M/s Contest.
5. In the event a selected Regional pair cannot go on to International, and if the Region in question chooses to select a replacement pair, the title must be withdrawn from the original Regional titleholders who cannot compete and be awarded to the replacement pair.
6. Master/slave pairs who hold a Regional M/s title and who compete for the International Master/slave title must agree not to compete for or hold another title within the leather and/or SM community, together or individually, during their Regional title year, or if they are chosen as International Master/slave, during their Regional and IM/s title years. Master/slave pairs who come directly to the International Master/slave Contest from an area not covered by an International Master/slave Region must agree not to compete for or hold another title within the leather and/or SM community, together or individually, from the date of the International Master/slave Contest where they compete to the date of the next year's International Master/slave Contest.
7. If a person has held the title of International Master or International slave at any time, that person may not run again for either title and may not participate in the International Master/slave Contest as part of a contestant pair running for the International Master/slave title.

## **Amending the Policies and Requirements**

1. International reserves the right to amend these Policies and Requirements. If amendments are adopted, the Regions will be notified as soon as practicable.

## **The Process for Applying to Produce a Regional Contest for International**

- Ensure that you are familiar with all of the materials regarding International, including the Judges' Handbook, Contestant Application, etc. as well as basic information regarding the location and date of the current Regional Contests. This information is available at the South Plains website ([southplainsleatherfest.com](http://southplainsleatherfest.com)) or you may request it from the Producer.
- Submit a proposal that includes, at a minimum, the information listed below to the Producers of International. Proposals should be sent via email to [Tomo.SPLF@gmail.com](mailto:Tomo.SPLF@gmail.com).
- Upon receipt of a proposal, the Producer will inform the applicant of the timetable for review of the proposal.
- The Producer may request that additional information be provided.
- The Producer and representatives of the proposal submitted will meet either on zoom or in person to discuss the proposal.
- The decision of the Producer on the proposal will be communicated in writing according to the timeline established for that proposal.
- Contest Production and Title Ownership: Upon acceptance of a proposal, International will confer contest production rights to the organization/group/individual identified above. International will retain all ownership rights for the regional title for two years or until a contestant pair is sent to International in two International contest years. After that period, International will make the determination of whether full ownership of the regional title will be transferred to the organization, group or individual specified in the proposal.

## **The Format for the Proposal**

- Proposals must be in the form of a Word or PDF document that can be transmitted electronically sent via email to Tomo.SPLF@gmail.com.
- At a minimum, the following information should be included in the proposal:
  - **Contact Information**  
Provide the name, email address and phone number for the person(s) International should contact regarding this proposal.
  - **Name of Organization/Group and Description**  
Indicate the name of the organization, group, or individual submitting the proposal. Give a brief history of the organization/group, describe its structure and provide a copy of the organization's/group's bylaws, operating procedures, etc., if any. If the organization/group is less than 3 years old, please indicate how and why it was created. Identify who would actually own the regional title (for example, the organization/group/individual submitting the proposal, a newly created legal entity such as an LLC owned by the organization/group/individual, an individual, etc.).
  - **The Region**  
Describe the proposed geographical scope of the region. Include a map or graphic showing the geographic scope, if possible. Include the date on which you propose to hold the regional contest. (Please ensure the date you select does not conflict with any established IM/s Regions.) Identify whether there are other events in the proposed region already scheduled on that date.
  - **Contestant Recruitment**  
Describe how you propose to recruit contestant pairs, both in the short and long term. Identify what steps you intend to take to reach out to M/s pairs in all parts of your community and specifically how you will support diversity in your titleholders and representation of marginalized groups.
  - **Contestant Selection**  
Describe how contestant pairs will be selected. If a contest format will be used, indicate whether you plan to use the International rules as a model for the regional contest. If a format other than a contest will be used to select titleholders, describe the format and how it will work. Indicate whether the contest or other format will be a stand-alone production or part of a larger event. If the contest or other format will be part of a larger event, describe the event, how long the event has been in existence, who owns/produces the event, where the event is held, whether there are other contests already being produced at the event and why the proposed regional contest/other format would be a good fit with the event.

- **Cooperation and Support**

Do you have any cooperative relationships with other individuals, organizations or groups that could benefit the proposed region and any associated event? If so, please describe. Please indicate any efforts you have made to obtain support or “buy in” from relevant groups or individuals for your proposed region and any associated event. Please identify the groups/individuals and the result of those efforts. Please include any letters of support you have from other relevant groups, events or individuals.

- **Financing/Economics**

Explain why you believe your proposed regional contest and any associated event will be economically viable for the long term. Please also describe how you intend to finance the regional contest and any associated event for the inaugural year.

- **Timetable**

Indicate the timetable for selecting the proposed region’s first contestant pair and when you plan to send the first pair to International. It is strongly advised that your proposal includes your plan to send a contestant pair to International the year following the date of your proposal.

- **Other Events Produced by Proposer**

Please identify and describe any other BDSM, Leather, M/s or kink event you produce, if any. If you do produce another event or event(s), please indicate how you plan to coordinate your time and effort among the events.

- **Other Information**

Please provide any other information that you feel would be helpful for the Producer of International to consider.