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Policies and Requirements for the U.S. Regional State City Person of Leather Contests as feeders to the International Person of Leather Contest System Owned and Produced by South Plains Leatherfest, LLC

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This document provides information about Regional, State and City feeders to the International Person of Leather contest system as well as a guideline for regions, states and cities to submit a contest proposal.

Basic Philosophy for the International Person of Leather Contest and Titles

International Person of Leather will be selected not based on gender identity, sexual orientation, race, physical appearance, age, or disability, but rather on their ability to articulate their views, passions, and dedications and to make an impact in their communities. We will expect these People of Leather to act as mentors, educators, role models and spokespeople throughout their title year. The International Person of Leather Contest is a celebration of the diversity in the Leather community. The title of Person of Leather exists to promote that diversity.

There are seven United States regions authorized to send contestants to the International Person of Leather title. State and city contests within each region are at the discretion of the regional producer. It is 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.

It is expected that if a region awards a regional Person of Leather title, the titleholder will compete at the International Competition the following March. Regions may not award a title if a person does not intent to compete at International.

Number of Regions

1. The seven existing regions are: Northeast, Southeast, Southwest, Northwest, Heartland, Rocky Mountain and Midwest (“the Regions”). The official map designating the states covered by each region is maintained at the South Plains Leatherfest website, southplainsleatherfest.com.
2. International determines the configuration of all Regions. Regional producers control state and city contests within their region.
3. A contestant 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. ¹
4. In the future, International may choose, at its discretion, to certify regions outside of the United States to send contestants to the International Person of Leather Contest.

Ownership Rights and Costs

1. The ownership rights to the Regional IPOL 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, if the ownership of the hosting event changes in any way, or if the production team of the hosting event changes in any way, ownership of that regional title reverts to International until a new owner is selected by International. International will seek proposals from parties interested in owning the title.
2. Ownership of the Region is not immediately transferred. A potential regional contest owner must produce the regional contest and provide a contestant for International for a minimum of 2 years before International will consider 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.
4. International retains the right to remove production rights of the regional Master slave Contest from a region at any time should International believe that the region is doing or may potentially do harm to the International Master slave Contest System.
5. There is no monetary charge to the region to maintain Ownership and Production rights of the regional contest. IPOL Contestants will be charged a contestant fee for contest entry.
6. Each regional producer will be provided a comp for a standard weekend package to SPLF (max 2).

¹ Additional information regarding the process for international contestants can be found in the documents “Policies and Requirements for International Person of Leather Contestants from Outside of the U.S.” and the “International Contestant Petition to Compete at the International Person of Leather Contest.” Both documents are available from International.

Requirements for Sending Contestants to International

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

Selection of Contestants

1. Although International believes that a contest-based method of selection allows Regional contestants 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 contestants and it is designed to prepare contestants for the International competition. International encourages the Regions to adopt methods of contestant selection that are transparent and consistent in order to promote trust in and support of the Regional and International titles from the Leather, Kink and 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 contestant winning that Regional title. If asked, International will also offer comments on the proposed method of selection.
4. International insists that regardless of the region’s chosen structure of the contest, the contest must be ethically sound, accessible, and contestants treated with kindness and respect.

Eligibility of Contestants

1. All contestants competing in the International Person of Leather Contest must be at least 21 years of age, self-identify as part of the Leather Community, live within the Region they represent, and have participated in the Leather Community for at least five years prior to competing for the International Person of Leather title.
2. If a contestant lives in the United States, they must have been selected by the Region in which they live as the current title year's Regional POL titleholder and must still hold that Regional title at the time of the International POL Contest in order to compete in the Contest. If the contestant lives outside of the United States, the contestant may compete at the International POL Contest without holding a Regional POL title, at the discretion of International.
3. Only one contestant can officially hold a Regional title. Regional titleholders for a subsequent year cannot assume the title until the current titleholder steps down.
4. Regional POL titleholders must agree that during the period between submitting a petition to compete at International and the International POL 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 POL Contest.
5. In the event a selected Regional titleholder cannot go on to International, and if the Region in question chooses to select a replacement titleholder, the title must be withdrawn from the original Regional titleholder who cannot compete and be awarded to the replacement titleholder.
6. POL Titleholders who compete for the International POL title must agree not to compete for or hold another title within the leather and/or SM community during their Regional title year, or if they are chosen as International Person of Leather, during their Regional and International title years.
7. If a person has held the title of International Person of Leather at any time, that person may not run again in the International Person of Leather contest.

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) or you may request it from the Producer.
- Submit a proposal that includes, at a minimum, the information listed below to the Producer of International. Proposals should be sent via email to 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 identified above. International will retain all ownership rights for the regional title for two years or until a contestant 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 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.).
 - **Hosting Event**
Provide details regarding the name of the event that will host the POL Regional Contest. Include the name of the event, location, date, expected attendance, demographic of attendees, event producer's name (if different than contest producer), how this event will be diverse, equitable and inclusive, and how the event is in alignment with the mission of the Person of Leather Contest System.
 - **The Region**
Describe the proposed or current geographical scope of the region. Include the date on which you propose to hold the regional contest. (Please ensure the date you select does not conflict with any established IPOL Regions.) Identify whether there are other events in the proposed region already scheduled on that date.
 - **Contestant Recruitment**
Describe how you propose to recruit contestants, both in the short and long term. Identify what steps you intend to take to reach out to potential contestants 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 contestants 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 regional contest 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 regional contest 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 and when you plan to send the first regional titleholder to International. It is strongly advised that your proposal includes your plan to send a contestant 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 or have produced, 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.