

## ***Official Contestant Information***

### **International Master and slave Contest 2012 At South Plains Leatherfest March 9 – 11, 2012 Dallas, Texas**

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

The Owners/Producers of the International Master/slave Contest are committed to providing the leather/BDSM community 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 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 International 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 International Master and slave are expected to follow.

Contestants are not required to have a formal "platform"; however, questions from the judges 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. Contestant pairs must self-identify as Master and slave.
2. Contestant pair must have been in a self-identified Master/slave relationship with each other for at least 1 year prior to running for the International Master/slave title.
3. 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 year's regional Master/slave titleholders. If the contestant pair lives outside of the United States, the pair may compete at the International Master/slave Contest without holding a regional M/s title, at the discretion of the owners of the IM/s Contest.
4. The contestants must be willing, should they win, to travel to a minimum of 4 events or leather/SM group meetings to present on Master/slave relationships and/or to represent the titles. One of the 4 events must be the next year's South Plains Leatherfest.
5. The titleholders are strongly encouraged to attend more than the minimum number of events and to seek out every opportunity to speak on Master/slave relationships.

6. The titleholders must be willing to speak on Master/slave relationships to all segments of the leather/SM community. In addition, the 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.
7. The titleholders may accept additional monetary support from groups, event sponsors or individuals to cover travel expenses, and may raise additional money to cover travel expenses through fundraising activities. The titleholders may not receive payment above and beyond actual travel expenses for speaking engagements or other activities performed in their role as International Master and slave during the title year.
8. The titleholders will be required to submit a quarterly financial report with supporting receipts reflecting their activities in support of the title, and a final financial report on the use of the travel fund and any other funds raised or received during the title year to help defray travel expenses.
9. The titleholders will be required to submit a monthly report of the speaking engagements they have lined up for the coming month, including group/event name, location and date of engagement.
10. The contestants run for and win the International 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, SPL Enterprises, LLC, as the owner of the International Master/slave title, will determine in what manner the title will be represented for the remainder of the year in question.
11. If the titleholders are unable to carry out the requirements of the title, any unspent travel funds will be returned to SPL Enterprises, LLC, as owner of the title, along with a financial accounting of funds that have been spent to date.
12. During the title year, the titleholders may not charge a fee for their personal use for participating in BDSM activity, whether sexual or non-sexual in nature. This does not prevent titleholders from engaging in fundraising activities for charities or for the International Master/slave title that may include BDSM.
13. SPL Enterprises, LLC, as owner of the International Master and slave title, reserves the right to recall the title from the current titleholders if, in its judgment, the titleholders have failed to substantially comply with or fulfill the obligations of the title.

**Contestants will be judged in the following categories:**

- Speech (100 points) – *The Master and the slave will each make a speech during the Saturday evening contest on the topic of their choice. The Master will have 2 minutes for his or her speech and the slave will also have 2 minutes for his or her speech. The Master and the slave are not required to speak on the same topic.*
- Interview with Judges (150 points) – *During the Interview category, the judges will direct questions at both the Master and the slave. The questions may address, among other topics, any aspect of Master/slave relationships in general, BDSM, leather history, and*

*the contestants' specific Master/slave relationship. The Interview category is open to all attendees of South Plains Leatherfest.*

- *On-stage question (75 points) – During the Saturday evening contest, each Master and slave will draw and answer a "pop" question while on stage. The questions will generally focus on Master/slave relationships or more generally, on leather/BDSM topics.*
- *Master/slave dynamic (75 points) – Contestants will be observed by the judges throughout the weekend and will be judged on how they interact and present themselves as Master and slave to the public. No particular form of "protocol" or dress is considered to be correct. The judges will be looking for contestants that are comfortable in their particular Master/slave dynamic. Judging on the Master/slave Dynamic will begin on Friday night when the contestant pairs are introduced at the Contest's Opening Festivities.*
- *Presentation (100 points) -- Each contestant pair will be required to present a brief presentation on any issue relating to Master/slave relationships. Each contestant pair will be allowed no more than 10 minutes total for the presentation. Contestant pairs are permitted to use hand outs, props or other visual aids in their presentations, but are not required to do so. If a contestant pair chooses to use hand outs, it is the responsibility of the contestant pair to bring enough copies for at least the judges of the Contest. **If a contestant pair chooses to use props or other visual aids, the contestant pair is responsible for obtaining and bringing those items, including any equipment necessary to present the visual aid such as an easel, flip chart, projector, screen, etc. The cost of all hand outs, props and other visual aids will be the responsibility of the contestant pairs.** Both the Master and slave must speak during the presentation. The Presentation category will be open to all attendees of South Plains Leatherfest. At the conclusion of the contestant pair's presentation, if time permits, the contestant pair will answer questions from the audience about the presentation. The judges will not ask questions of the contestant pairs in this judging category unless there are no questions from the audience. If the judges do ask questions, the questions will be limited to the subject matter of the contestant pair's presentation. This question and answer time will not exceed 5 minutes for any contestant pair.*

### **Scoring system:**

The Olympic scoring system will be used (seven judges, with the high and low scores thrown out). 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 Olympic 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 dropping the high and low scores. The resulting composite scores for each pair then will be averaged, again without dropping the high and low scores. The pair with the highest overall non-Olympic score will be the winner.

If there is only one contestant pair running for a title, the contestant 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 would need to receive a final overall score of 350 in order to win the title.

If a judge becomes incapacitated during the course of the Contest and is unable to carry out his/her duties as a judge, that judge's scores will be discarded. The remaining 6 judges will continue to score the Contest under the Olympic scoring system, with the lowest and highest scores of the remaining 6 judges dropped from the calculations.

## **About the Contest and Weekend**

Competing in a international leather contest is an exhilarating – and exhausting – experience. It often is helpful for a contestant pair to bring someone with them as a support system/assistant for the weekend. Anyone assisting a contestant pair at IM/s may do the following without registering for South Plains:

- Accompany the contestant pair to the contestants' meeting;
- Stay with the contestant pair outside of the interview room during the interviews;
- Stay with the contestant pair outside of the presentation room;
- Assist the contestant pair before the contest or in the dressing room during the contest. (Due to space constraints and safety issues, assistants are not allowed backstage with the contestant pairs during the contest.)

**If an assistant wishes to attend any South Plains event, including the Friday Night Opening Festivities, the International Master/slave Contest, seminars, play parties, brunch, etc., they must register for the event.**

## **The IM/s Travel Fund**

- The IM/s regional contestants are required to bring a single item to IM/s to be auctioned off during the Silent Auction. The item need not be large or expensive, but instead, should be something that represents their region or the spirit of their regional contest. The single item may be a basket made up of several small items on the order of a standard small "gift basket." The owners of the IM/s Contest will have sole discretion on whether something constitutes a "single item" under these rules and their decision is final. If a contestant pair has any doubt whether their item falls within these rules, the pair should contact slave marsha at southplainsleatherfest@gmail.com prior to the contest. The proceeds raised from the Silent Auction will go to the IM/s travel fund.
- Contestant pairs must send the Producer of the IM/s Contest a description and estimated value for the item they will donate to the Silent Auction. This information must be sent to the Producer of the IM/s Contest no later than 2 weeks prior to the event (February 24, 2012). Please submit this information to southplainsleatherfest@gmail.com.
- The IM/s regional contestants and/or the regions are encouraged to show their support and the support of the groups and individuals in their region for the goals of the IM/s title by making a monetary contribution to the IM/s travel fund. This is not a requirement on the part of either the regions or their contestant pairs. The IM/s contest judges will not be informed whether a region or contestant pair has elected to contribute to the IM/s travel fund. In addition, the judges will be specifically instructed that they may not ask any of the contestant pairs whether or not a contribution was made by the contestants or their region.

- The IM/s Travel Fund will consist of all amounts raised from the Silent Auction and any other funds donated by groups or individuals to the IM/s Travel Fund or designated by SPL Enterprises, LLC.

**Owners/Producers' guarantee for the Winners' Packet:** The contest winners will receive the following:

- 2 Winner's back patches (1 for International Master, 1 for International slave)
- A travel fund consisting of all amounts raised from the Silent Auction and any other funds donated by groups or individuals to the IM/s Travel Fund or designated by SPL Enterprises, LLC.
- Airfare (up to \$400 per ticket) and hotel accommodations for SPLF 2013. (The titleholders will be expected to present at least two seminars or one seminar and a panel discussion and serve as tallymasters at the contest.)

**Contest Schedule:** Contestant pairs must be available for all of the following:

- **Contestant Briefing:** Friday, March 9, 2012 (early afternoon)
- **Rehearsal:** Friday, March 9, 2012 (late afternoon)
- **Appearance at Contest Opening Festivities:** Friday, March 9, 2012 (evening)
- **Interviews:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 (morning)
- **Presentations:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 (afternoon)
- **Contest Rehearsal:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 (afternoon)
- **Contest:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 (evening)
- **Brunch:** Sunday, March 11, 2012 (morning)
- **Meeting with Owners/Producers:** Winners must be available to meet with the Owners/Producers of the IM/s Contest on Sunday, March 11, 2012 (afternoon).

If you have any questions, please contact slave marsha at [southplainsleatherfest@gmail.com](mailto:southplainsleatherfest@gmail.com) or see [www.southplainsleatherfest.com](http://www.southplainsleatherfest.com)

# ***Official Contestant Application***

## **International Master and slave 2012 Contest**

***March 9–11, 2012***

South Plains Leatherfest  
22136 Westheimer Pkwy #202  
Katy, TX 77450  
<http://www.southplainsleatherfest.com>

**All applications are due February 2, 2012.**

**Note: Contestant pairs should register through on-line registration, using the registration code for Contestants. (Contact slave marsha at [southplainsleatherfest@gmail.com](mailto:southplainsleatherfest@gmail.com) for the code before registering.) Contestants are not charged a registration fee, and each will receive a brunch ticket. Play party packages are not included, but may be purchased when contestants register, if desired.**

***Please note that there is a contest fee of \$50.00 per contestant pair. Please pay this fee online at the same time you register. Only ONE member of the contestant pair should select both the "Contestants" and "Contest Fee" boxes; the other member of the contest pair should select ONLY the "Contestants" box.***

***Please return an electronic copy of the completed application to slave marsha at [southplainsleatherfest@gmail.com](mailto:southplainsleatherfest@gmail.com).***

# ***IM/s 2012 Application***

Legal Names:

Scene Names:

Address:

City:

State:

ZIP:

Phone:

Email(s):

Club or group affiliations (use as much space as needed):

Two (2) community references -- Please provide email contact information; these references will be contacted by the Owners/Producers. **PLEASE NOTE – Choose your references carefully – you may NOT substitute new/different references after submitting this application if your original selections do not respond or do not respond by the deadline.**

Reference 1:

Reference 2:

Sponsor (not required):

Time in current Master/slave relationship:

BDSM/Leather events attended in the past year (use as much space as needed):

Other leather titles held and dates:

Why have you decided to run for the International Master and slave title? (Use as much space as needed.)

If you win the International Master and slave title, what would be your goal(s) for your title year? (Use as much space as needed.)

Holding an international title like International Master/slave requires a serious time commitment on the part of the titleholders. Most of us have one or more things in our lives that demand significant amounts of our time. Please identify any circumstances in your lives that demand a significant amount of your time and explain how, if you are chosen International Master/slave, you plan to manage your time so that you can meet your life obligations as well as your obligations to the title. (Use as much space as needed.)

The Owners of the International Master/slave title are pleased to provide our titleholders with a travel fund, the amount of which varies from year to year. However, it is our experience that all international titleholders, including International Master/slave, spend some amount of personal funds during their title year as they travel in support of the title. If you are chosen International Master/slave, how do you plan to manage the additional financial burden that often comes with holding an international title? (Use as much space as needed.)

Any additional information you would like the judges to know? (Use as much space as needed.)

***DISCLAIMER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY:*** In consideration of the acceptance of our entry herewith by the owners and producers of South Plains Leatherfest and the International Master/slave Title and Contest, we hereby waive, release and forever discharge SPL Enterprises, L.L.C., South Plains Leatherfest, its owners, producers, members, agents, operators, employees, lessors, lessees, parent companies or entities, affiliated companies or entities, representatives or subsidiaries from any and all demands, actions, causes of actions, claims of injury or damage to our persons, property or reputations, costs, damages, expenses, attorney's fees or penalties of any kind or nature, whether asserted or unasserted, known or unknown, that may arise now or in the future from any cause whatsoever in connection with our participation in and with the International Master/slave Contest and South Plains Leatherfest. We hereby give permission for the use of our scene names in connection with publicity for South Plains Leatherfest and the International Master/slave title and contest. By our signatures, we hereby state that we have read and understand the above disclaimer. We further state that each of us is at least 21 years of age.

Contestant signature (Legal name - Master): \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant signature (Legal name - slave): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**All applications are due February 2, 2012.**

**Email the completed application to  
slave marsha at southplainsleatherfest@gmail.com**

For additional information, please contact slave marsha at southplainsleatherfest@gmail.com or  
check the South Plains Leatherfest website at: <http://www.southplainsleatherfest.com>