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Contest Handbook

The Colorado Master/slave Contest



Master/slave

***Handbook for
The Colorado Master/slave Contest
Owned and Produced by Master Trent and slave kelly***

*Written by Master Jim and slave marsha, IM/s 2001
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Colorado M/s Contest Document by Master Trent and slave kelly*

Basic Philosophy for the Colorado Master/slave Contest and Titles

The Owners/Producers of the Colorado Master/slave Contest are committed to providing the leather/BDSM community with a Colorado Master and a Colorado slave who will represent the Master/slave community and lifestyle with integrity and competence. The holders of the Colorado Master and Colorado slave titles will be spokespersons for the Colorado 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/kink/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 Colorado 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 the Colorado 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 for Contestants

1. A contestant pair must self-identify as Master and slave, or Owner and Property. Both the terms “Master” and “slave” are used by the Colorado Master/slave Contest and its Owners/Producers as gender-neutral and not indicative of any particular sexual orientation or gender presentation.

2. A contestant pair must have been in a self-identified Master/slave or Owner/property relationship with each other for at least 1 year prior to running for the Colorado Master/slave title.
3. Contestant pairs must both live within the state of Colorado for a minimum of six months to be eligible to compete in the Colorado Master and slave contest.
4. If a person has held the title of Colorado Master or Colorado slave at any time, that person may not run again for either title and may not participate in the Colorado Master/slave Contest as part of a contestant pair running for the Colorado Master/slave title.

The Structure of the Colorado Master/slave Contest

1. The Colorado Master/slave Contest is made up of five judging categories: Interview; Presentation; Speech; Pop Question and M/s Dynamic. Each of these categories is described in greater detail under the “Judging Categories” section of this Handbook.
2. In addition to their performance in the five judging categories, two other aspects of the Colorado M/s Contest will impact a contestant pair’s score:
 - a. Meeting Contest deadlines/complying with Contest rules: Contestants are required to meet all Contest deadlines, including but not limited to timely submittal of the Contest Application and information on the item the contestants are required to submit for the Silent Auction, and attendance at all required Contest rehearsals and meetings. Failure to comply with any Contest rule or deadline will be reported to the judging panel by the Owners/Producers. The judges may use this information as a part of the interview of the contestant pairs and may factor this information into their scoring of the contestant pairs at their discretion.
 - b. During the Friday night Meet and Greet, after drawing their contestant numbers, the contestant pairs will be given the opportunity to introduce themselves on stage. Each contestant will have a maximum of 2 minutes to make their introduction. The form and content of the introduction is up to the contestant pair; however, props or sets of any kind are not permitted.
 - c. The contestant pairs will each be given individual on-stage pop questions during the Friday night on stage activities.

- d. The Judges interviews and class presentation will be conducted during the day on Saturday with the final components of the contest performed on stage during the evening activities.
3. There are five judges for the Colorado Master/slave Contest. Straight scoring shall be utilized where all scores are counted and averaged, giving a composite score for each category. The contestants' composite scores for the five categories are then added to give a final overall score. A perfect overall score would be 500. The contestant pair with the highest overall score will be the winner. The winning pair, whether competing unopposed or with multiple contestant pairs must score a minimum of 70%, (350 points) of the total possible score to be awarded the Titles.
4. If a judge becomes incapacitated during the Colorado 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 straight scoring system. The Owners/Producers reserve the right to define the duties of a judge of the Colorado 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 judgment is unable to carry out those duties.
5. Contestants for the Colorado 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.
6. In the event of a tie score between two or more contestant pairs, the winning pair will be the one with the highest overall total score, without averaging the judges scores. 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 the scores.
7. If there is only one contestant pair running for the Colorado M/s title, the pair must receive a final overall score equal to or higher than 70% of the total possible. A perfect overall score would be 500; thus, the contestant pair must receive a final overall score of 350 or higher, to be awarded the title.

If there are multiple contestant pairs running for the Colorado M/s title, the highest scoring pair must receive a final overall score equal to or higher than 70% of the total possible. A perfect overall score would be 500; thus, the contestant pair must receive a final overall score of 350 or higher, to be awarded the title.

Judging Categories

1. **Interview with Judges** (150 points)
 - a. 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 ensure that both contestants are being asked and are answering questions.
 - b. 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.
 - c. The Judges' Interviews are open to all persons who wish to attend, register and pay the appropriate admission.

2. **Speech** (100 points)
 - a. 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.
 - b. 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. The microphone will not be "cut." 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 factor the contestant's failure to conclude the speech within the time limit allowed by these rules into the score at their discretion.
 - c. No props or sets may be used during a contestant's speech.

3. **Presentation** (100 points)
 - a. The presentation category is designed to judge the contestants' ability to speak in a seminar type format on Master/slave relationships. The contestants are required to make a brief (no more than 10 minute)

presentation on any topic relating to Master/slave relationships. Both the Master and the slave must speak during the presentation.

- b. Contestants are permitted to use handouts, props or visual aids in their presentations, but are not required to do so. The Colorado M/s Contest will provide a flip chart and markers if requested in advance. Contestants must provide any and all other handouts, props or visual aids, at their expense.
 - c. 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.
 - d. 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.
 - e. 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 judges is final. The time for questions and answers will not exceed 5 minutes for any contestant pair.
 - f. 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.
 - g. The Presentation session is open to all persons who wish to attend, register and pay the appropriate admission.
4. On-stage ("Pop") Question (75 points)
- a. Both the Master and the slave will be asked an on-stage or "pop" question, which they must answer. These kinds of questions often tend to evoke humorous responses from contestants.

- b. The questions will be written and provided by the judges and/or Owners/Producers of the Colorado Master/slave Contest.
5. Master/slave Dynamic (75 points)
- a. 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.
 - b. Judging in this category begins Friday evening, when the contestant pairs introduce themselves and draw their numbers at the Meet and Greet. 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.
 - c. No particular protocol or form of dress is considered to be “correct” or “incorrect.”

The COM/s Travel Fund

- a. The primary means of fundraising for the Colorado M/s Travel Fund is through the Silent Auction, fundraisers, and contributions.
- b. The item may be a single item or a basket made up of several small items on the order of a standard small “gift basket.” The item/basket need not be large or expensive, but instead, should be something that represents the contestant pair, their relationship, their state or the spirit of their contest.
- c. The owners of the COM/s Contest will have sole discretion on whether something constitutes a “single item” or appropriate basket under these rules and their decision is final.

Producers’ Guarantee for the Titleholders

The owners and the producers of the Colorado 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 COM/s Travel Fund or designated by the Colorado Master and slave Contest.

- Support and coaching throughout the year and in preparation for the SWLC regional M/s contest

Expectations and Requirements for the Colorado M/s Titleholders

These are the general expectations of the Colorado M/s Title Holders. More specific expectations can be found in the document titled “Agreement of Expectations for the [contest year] Master and slave Title Holders” that is provided to all contestants prior to competing for the Colorado Master and slave Titles.

1. You are required to attend next year’s Southwest Leather Conference and compete in the Southwest Regional Master/slave Contest as the Colorado Representatives.
2. You are required to attend next year’s Colorado Master/slave contest. You will have an active role at next year’s Colorado Master and slave Contest event. You will plan your step-down activities for that event.
3. You are required to attend no less than four events within the state of Colorado, to present, teach or speak about Master/slave dynamics. We encourage you to make as many appearances as possible and to be visible within the community.
4. You are required to organize and host at least one fund raiser for the Colorado Master/slave travel fund. You may have more than one fund raiser. Additional fund raisers may be used to either support your travel fund, or for a charity of your choice with preference for a lifestyle, or health related charity.
5. You are strongly encouraged to attend all local title events, and any other community events, as appropriate and possible. Supporting other title holders including helping with their fundraisers within the state is good protocol and promotes goodwill among all of the contests and title holders.
7. During your title year, you are encouraged to attend as many Master/slave regional conferences and contests as you have time and resources available. Money for this travel will not come from the Colorado Master and slave travel fund, unless there is a surplus above the expected SWLC expenses.
8. The contestants run for and win the Colorado 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, the Owners/Producers will determine in what manner the title will be represented for the remainder of the year in question.

9. The Colorado titleholders must be willing to speak on Master/slave relationships to all segments of the leather/BDSM community. In addition, the Colorado 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.
10. The Colorado 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 Colorado titleholders may not receive payment above and beyond actual travel, lodging, and meal expenses for speaking engagements or other activities performed in their role as Colorado Master and slave during the title year.
11. The Colorado titleholders will be provided with a travel fund in an amount determined by the Owners/Producers.
 - a. The travel fund will be disbursed by the Owners/Producers to the Colorado titleholders.
 - b. The Colorado titleholders are required to submit to the Owners/Producers all supporting receipts on the use of the travel fund and any other funds raised or received during the title year to help defray travel expenses.
 - c. If the Colorado titleholders are unable to carry out the requirements of the title, any unspent travel funds will be retained by the Colorado Master and slave Contest after all outstanding expenses have been reimbursed.
12. The Colorado titleholders are required to provide the Owners/Producers with a monthly report identifying the speaking engagements they have booked. At a minimum, the report should include the event or group name, location and date of engagement. We will not micro manage your activities, but we like to know what you are attending in a “formal” capacity so we can help advertise and support your activities
13. Master/slave pairs who compete for the Colorado 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 State title year, or if they are chosen at the Regional or International level, during their Regional and IM/s title years.
14. During their title year, the Colorado 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 the Colorado titleholders from engaging in fundraising activities for charities or for the Colorado Master/slave title that may include BDSM.

15. The Colorado M/s titleholders may not make any representations on behalf of, or purport to bind, the Owners/Producers of the Colorado Master/slave Contest without the prior consent of the Owners/Producers.
16. The Colorado M/s titleholders are representatives of the Colorado M/s community. As such, the titleholders must protect the title and community from unfavorable publicity or focus. This means titleholders may not be able to participate in activities or take positions that they otherwise were free to do before winning the titles. Examples include: appearing as an expert witness in a trial on the issue of what constitutes abuse in the SM community; agreeing to be interviewed by the vanilla media regarding the title and the Leather and/or M/s community; taking a lead position on issues of significant controversy in the Leather and/or M/s community. Any questions regarding whether or not an activity could unfavorably impact the title should be immediately directed to the Owners/Producers. The decision of the Owners/Producers will be final on these matters.
17. The Owners/Producers reserve the right to recall the title from current or previous Colorado titleholders if, in their sole judgment, the titleholders have failed to substantially comply with or fulfill the obligations of the title, or have in any way damaged the name or reputation of the Colorado Master/slave title.
18. The Colorado Master/slave titleholders are permitted to use the title "Colorado Master/slave [title year]" in perpetuity, provided the Owners/Producers have not exercised their right to recall the title as described above. The current Colorado Master/slave titleholders are permitted to use the Colorado Master/slave logo on business cards and stationary or on a personal website for the term of their title year. Any other use of the title name or the Colorado M/s logo must be approved by the Owners/Producers in advance. The Owners/Producers retain the right to review any use of the Colorado Master/slave logo and to rescind permission to use the logo for any reason and at their sole discretion.
19. Anytime you are participating in any community event or house party during your title year, you must wear your title patch.
20. During your title year, you should encourage others to consider competing for a future Colorado Master/slave title. (Recruit, Mentor, Recruit)

21. The primary purpose of the travel fund is to support your local travel within the State of Colorado, and travel expenses to the Southwest Leather Conference Master/slave Contest in Phoenix, AZ.

Should the travel fund fail to cover all of the expenses, you should work to make up the difference from fund raisers. If funds still fall short, you will need to cover the shortage from your own finances. You are entitled to a full accounting of the travel funds balance at any time. You are encouraged to organize additional fund raisers to help support the travel fund.

Should the travel fund exceed the expected expenses for attending SWLC, the excess money may be used to help with your travel around Colorado, to attend events in the Southwest region, and to attend other regional Master/slave conferences; in that priority.

If, for any reason the travel fund is not depleted at the end of your title year, the balance will remain in the travel fund reserves and may be used to help future title holders.

The Owners and Producers reserve the right to maintain a minimum balance in reserves so as to not totally deplete the travel fund. A minimum of a one-year reserve shall be held.

If you need funds to advertise or promote your events or the title, you may submit a request in writing for such funds. It will be assessed by the Colorado Master and slave producers as to their ability to help in part or in whole.

Our Commitment to you:

We will listen to you and work with you to improve each phase of the contest and duties of the title holders.

We will be totally transparent with you about finances, needs, expectations and support.

Beginning in late September or early October, we will start working on your final preparation to compete at the Southwest Leather Conference Master and slave Contest. You must make time available for practice sessions as we help you to prepare for the next level of competition and the next step in your journey.

Should you win the Southwest Master and slave title, you will then work with the owners and producers of SWLC for your travel funds, expenses, expectations, etc. Our mutual obligations will be fulfilled at that point and you will transition to a Regional Title Holder.

We wish you well with your journey and hope that you will have FUN and enjoy the many opportunities that will come your way. As the owners and producers of the Colorado Master and slave Contest, we are always here for you as a sounding board, a resource, a safe place to vent, moral support, mentoring and friendship, as needed. Please utilize us and keep in contact throughout your title year.

Master Trent and slave kelly
Co-Owners of the Colorado Master and slave Titles
Co-Producers of the Colorado Master and slave Contest