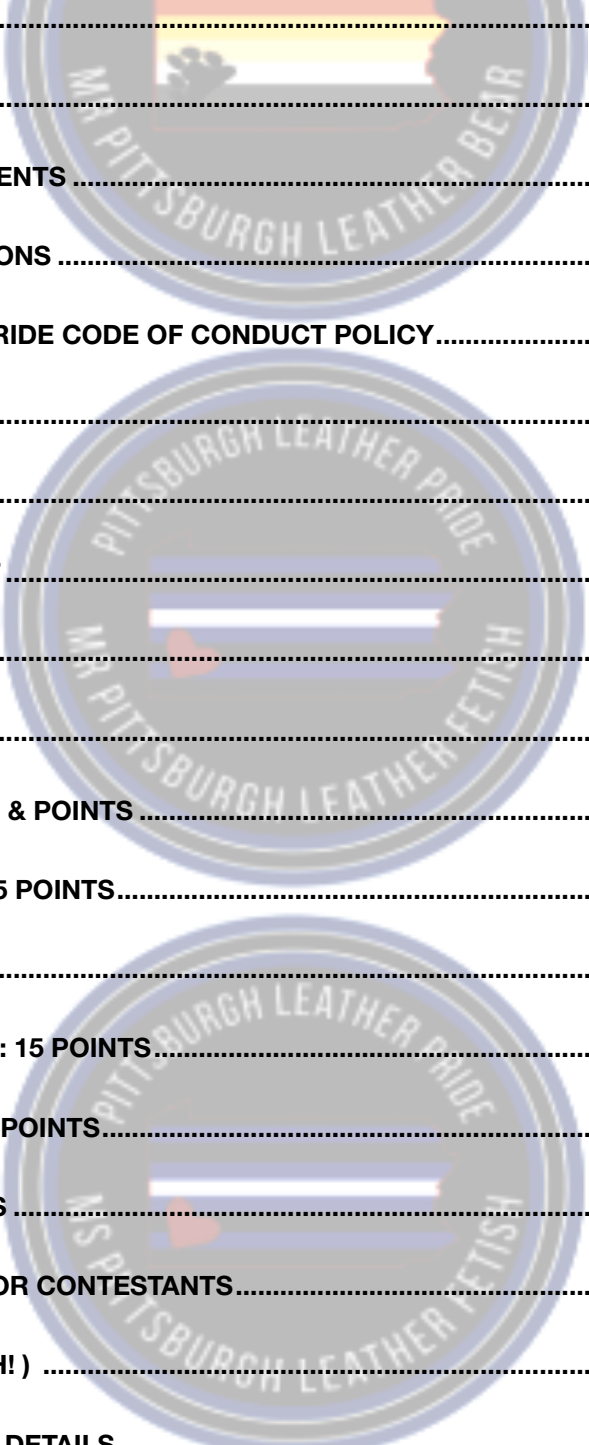


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# WELCOME CONTESTANT

Dear Bear, Pup or LeatherFolk,

I THANK EACH ONE OF YOU for stepping up and putting yourself out there to be a part of one of the most celebrated and awarded contests in the United States. In 12 years, our roster of accomplishments read like this:

- 8 Mid-Atlantic Leather Titles 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2019, 2020 & 2021
- First MAL feeder ever to win four back-to-back Mid-Atlantic Leather titles.
- Most consistently Top Three Placement at MAL 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020 & 2022
- The MOST titles of any feeder for Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather
- Top Three Interviews at MAL 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020, & 2022.
- 2011 - Mr. International Leather First Runner-up - Doug Pamplin
- 2022 - Mr. International Leather Second-Runner-up - David Spivey
- 2012 - American Leather Women, DOC
- 2013 - International Ms. Leather Spirit Award Winner, Minion
- 2019 - Mr. International Leather, Top 20 - 2 placers (6th Emerson Aniceto & 14th Greg Jones)

As we celebrate our 12th Anniversary of Pittsburgh Leather PRIDE and our 33rd year of Pittsburgh titleholders, we hope to add you to our roster of pride.

I wish you the best of luck and memories to remember.

In Leather,

David Dean  
Executive Producer  
Pittsburgh Leather Pride LLC  
Mr. Pittsburgh Leather Fetish & Mr. Pittsburgh Leather Bear & Iron City Pup

# RULES AND REQUIREMENTS/ REGULATIONS

## CONTESTANT REQUIREMENTS:

### Mr. Pittsburgh Leather Fetish

1. Identify as a gay male
2. Be at least 21 years or older.
3. Be a resident of the USA.
4. Possess a valid government issued ID, such as a Driver's License or passport, issued in their own name, which will be attached to their application to show proof of age.

### IRON CITY PUP

1. Identify as a gay/bi male.
2. Be at least 21 years or older.
3. Be a resident of the USA.
4. Possess a valid government issued ID, such as a Driver's License or passport, issued in their own name, which will be attached to their application to show proof of age.

### Mr. Pittsburgh Leather Bear

1. Identify as a gay male.
2. Be at least 21 years or older.
3. Be a resident of the USA.
4. Possess a valid government issued ID, such as a Driver's License or passport, issued in their own name, which will be attached to their application to show proof of age.

## CONTESTANT EXPECTATIONS FOR PITTSBURGH LEATHER FETISH/BEAR.

### Mr. Pittsburgh Leather Fetish Winner

1. Will represent Pittsburgh Leather Pride at any LGBTQIA events.
2. Maintain positive regular social media postings to your followers\*\*
3. Support a non-profit (approved by PLP LLC) of your choice.
4. Support BOS (Barons of Steel) at all events and functions.
5. Be a judge for the upcoming year's contest. .

### IRON CITY PUP

1. Will represent the Pittsburgh Kennel Club at any LGBTQIA events.
2. Maintain positive regular social media postings to your followers\*\*
3. Support a non-profit (approved by PLP LLC) of your choice.
4. Support BOS (Barons of Steel) at all events and functions.
5. Be a judge for the upcoming years contest. .

### Mr. Pittsburgh Leather Bear Winner

1. **Host 2 Guest Beartender Nights @PTown Bar & Blue Moon.**
2. Maintain positive regular social media postings to your followers\*\*
3. Support a non-profit (approved by PLP LLC) of your choice.
4. Support BOS (Barons of Steel) at all events and functions.
5. Be a judge for the upcoming years contest.

\*\* - denotes reference to the PLP Code of Conduct Requirements section.

## **PITTSBURGH LEATHER PRIDE CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY**

1. Complete honesty and full disclosure are expected from all contestants. Any issues, memberships, social media posts, criminal proceedings or other matters that would reflect poorly on the individual contestant or PLP LLC must be divulged to PLP LLC Immediately. PLP LLC reserves the right to investigate any claims regarding a contestant that could be potentially damaging to the reputation of both the contestant and PLP LLC and Barons of Steel. PLP LLC reserves the right to make any determination and decisions on how to proceed pending the results of their investigations. (1)
2. Any contestant causing damage at any PLP LLC venue, inclusive of props, decorations, materials, equipment etc... Will be Immediately disqualified and may be subject to legal actions. If legal action is, pursued PLP LLC will assist the venues and individuals of damaged property with any prosecutions. (2)
3. Any contestant who is caught in the act of stealing or tampering with another's costumes, outfits, and materials will be immediately disqualified, removed from the event and denied access to the event.
4. Contestants may not expose their genitals on stage, in public venues or at any part of the weekend.
5. Contestants will refrain from making derogatory comments/statements about another contestant either verbally or using social media.
6. Contestants are not permitted to take photos in areas where contestants are changing and/ or preparing for presentation.
7. Contestants found creating an environment of intimidation or physical threat shall be removed from the competition and event.

## **POLICY ON DRUGS**

1. PLP LLC does not condone and tolerate the use, distribution, or possession of illegal drugs by any contestant of PLP LLC. Any contestant found in violation of this rule will be immediately disqualified.
2. This policy will remain in effect for the winners of Mr./Ms. Pittsburgh Leather Fetish and Mr. Pittsburgh Leather Bear and Iron City Pup during their title years respectively. If found in violation of this policy PLP LLC reserves the right to strip the title and refer the matter for prosecution.
3. Legal action may be taken at the discretion of PLP LLC.

## **POLICY ON ALCOHOL**

1. Any contestant who is found to be grossly intoxicated at any PLP LLC or Barons of Steel event will be immediately disqualified, removed from the location and denied access to the event. Contestants are welcome to enjoy social drinking and should be responsible with beverage consumption.
2. Any winner who is found to be grossly intoxicated at events during their title year shall receive a first warning, followed by a meeting with the Executive Producer of PLP to determine if intervention or outside assistance is warranted. After evaluating the situation, it shall be the right of PLP LLC to exercise its prerogative on how to proceed. All decisions by the EP of PLP LLC are final.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA CONDUCT**

1. All contestants and winners shall refrain from posting derogatory and libelous content on social media as it relates to PLP LLC, its directors, volunteers, venues, subsidiaries, sponsors, vendors, and Barons of Steel.
2. Any contestant or winners found violating this policy will be disqualified and banned from the event for life, stripped of their title, and required to reimburse PLP LLC for damages, court costs and prize package. Under the Tortious Interference term shall all violations of this policy be enforced.
3. Any posts (written, photography or others) misrepresenting PLP LLC, Barons of Steel, it's venues, sponsors, subsidiaries, volunteers and directors to the public-at-large via any social media, blog, website, board, publication (hard copy or online) or any other mode of transmission by a contestant or winners shall result in full reimbursement of prize package and title revoked, legal costs, loss of income and reputation restitution and other legal means at our discretion.

## **CONTEST APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Candidates must submit all of the following for the application to be considered complete.

1. Completed Application.
2. One 5x7 headshot photo (digital submissions must be a minimum resolution of 300dpi).
3. Signed Media/Photography Waiver with a copy of a government issued ID.
4. Signed Code of Conduct Policy.

By signing and completing all the aforementioned requirements, contestants have attested that they have read, understand and agree to abide by the Code of Conduct, rules, regulations, and waivers for competing.

## **JUDGING / EVALUATING**

PLP LLC uses the Olympic Scoring as its basis for determining a winner. Each contestant will have his/her/it/they high and low score removed. In the event of a tie, the high and low will be added to both contenders and the contestant with the highest score will be the winner. In the event that both tied, contestants are tied after adding the high and low, the contestant with the highest interview score will be the winner.

There will be 4-5 judges in total for scoring and evaluation. Three days after the contest is over all contestants will receive a copy of their scores and any comments by the judges.

All scores will be tabulated after the completion of each round, by handing the score sheets to the head judge; the head judge will give them to the tally masters who will incorporate the scores electronically. There are two tally masters who will initially certify the score. The Executive Producer will sign off on the final scores and certify the winners. A copy of the final scores will be sent to the Executive Producer and Head Judge.

## **CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS & POINTS for Mr. Pittsburgh Leather Fetish/Bear Contests**

### **A. PERSONAL INTERVIEW: 25 points.**

Each contestant will be interviewed by our panel of judges before the contest. The venue and setup will be informal and casual. You may choose to sit or stand during the interview. The questions will come from the application ONLY. There will not be questions about leather history, current politics or religion, or topics of controversy. The titles are not spokespersons on matters of politics, religion, leather current events and shall hold nor express opinions on such matters during their title year. That purview is the sole domain of PLP LLC.

1. Judges will be looking into the character, charisma, personality and professional and personal lives of each contestant. It will help the judges evaluate communication skills, intellect, attitude and composure.
2. Contestants shall attend the interviews as themselves, in comfortable clothing.
3. Contestants should remember that this is a casual interview in a relaxed setting.
4. Personal interviews will last @10-15 minutes.

### **B. BAR WEAR or "CASUAL WEAR" :15 points.**

Bar wear is a chance to show the judges and audience who you are in your leather/fetish wear-gear. This should be what you'd normally wear if you were going to a bar or event.

1. Each contestant will be brought out on stage one-by-one and introduce themselves with a basic bio to include name, age, location and occupation.
2. Judges will be looking for creativity in outfits, fit, polish and shine, comfortable in the outfit, ease on stage and how you connect with the audience.
3. Contestants may choose to wear either leather, Fetish and for bears, you may chose a bear appropriate ensemble.

### **C. SHORTS, SWIM OR JOCK - YOUR PERSONALITY : 15 points**

This category really is your chance to put it all out there...literally. Genitals must be kept covered. This is not a "body competition" but rather a body celebration. How you feel, interact with the audience and judges, does the outfit tell us something about you and your personality. Think Carnival or Southern Decadence.

1. Contestants will be brought on stage one by one...and introduced by the MC by giving the audience a sample of your fetishes, sexual prowess, what makes you tick...or tat...think burlesque.
2. Judges will be looking for creativity...authenticity and are you comfortable being vulnerable and exposed?

## **CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS & POINTS Cont.**

### **D. COSTUME AND FANTASY: 35 points.**

This category will include your interpretation of “formal/fetish/fantasy wear that you might wear at a special event. This can include such fetishes as formal pup wear, suit and tie, period costume, military uniform, rubber formal, etc...

1. Contestants will be brought onstage one by one to showcase their interpretation of formal and give a 90 second speech on why they want to be Mr./Ms. Pittsburgh Leather Fetish or Mr. Pittsburgh Leather Bear.
2. Judges will be evaluating the contestants ease speaking before an audience and the fit and uniqueness of each contestant's formal interpretation.

### **E. AMBASSADOR: 10 points.**

This category is based on your attendance at events, interactions with judges and audience, general demeanor between your band of contestants, staff at venues, and general likability.

1. Each contestant will start with 10 points at the start of the weekend. Only the Executive Producer will score this round. This score will be given to the tally masters after the final round of competition.
2. It is recommended that contestants arrive 15 minutes early at every event and make themselves ready for interactions. Remember, you will be watched the entire weekend.

## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS for Contestants**

**FRIDAY, September 23rd**

**TO BE ANNOUNCED**

**SATURDAY, September 24th**

**TO BE ANNOUNCED**

**SUNDAY, September 25th**

**TO BE ANNOUNCED**

*\* All times and locations are subject to change. If unavailable to attend an event, the Executive Producer of PLP LLC must be notified (via text or in-person) in advance. Administrative points can be deducted if agreed upon by the Executive Producer.*



# PRIZES

## COMPETITION WINNERS for IRON CITY PUP & PITTSBURGH LEATHER FETISH/BEAR

### A. Mr. Pittsburgh Leather Fetish

TO BE ANNOUNCED

### B. IRON CITY PUP

TO BE ANNOUNCED

### C. Mr. Pittsburgh Leather Bear

TO BE ANNOUNCED

## About The Iron City Pup Contest

**IRON CITY PUP CONTEST** is an **Open Contest**. Anyone over the age of 21 may compete. Iron City Pup Contest (**ICPC**) is produced by Pittsburgh Kennel Club (**PKC**), **PLP LLC**, and **Barons of Steel (BOS)**.

### Qualifications Statement \*

Contestants must be **21** or older (**ID Required**) complete a contest application, liability/ media waiver, **and** agree to adhere to the guidelines and rules set forth in the contest manual and application/waivers.

### Purpose of Contest:

**The ICP Contest has three (3) core missions:**

1. Provide a fun, safe, and unique social and educational experience for the Pup community and fetish community-at-large.
2. Select a good representative of the Pup community to represent at events, contests and throughout our community during their title year.\
3. Support pet organizations by creating unique and carefully promoted events.

### Expectations of the Titleholder

The primary responsibility of the winner of **ICP** contest title is to build and maintain a positive and respectful image of the contest, **PKC** and **BOS** as well as the pup community. There are a few specific minimum expectations listed below, but it's mostly up to the **ICP** to decide how they want to and are best able to represent - each **ICP** is unique in their goals and desires and

are encouraged to develop these minimum requirements more robustly based on their personal ability and enthusiasm.

**Failure or inability to fulfill the listed minimum requirements of the ICP can result in revocation of the title**

**Community / Public Representation Statement**

It's important to the contest and our community that the **ICP** maintain a positive and respectful public image during their title year. Tarnishing the reputation of the contest or the title can lead to revocation of the title. Rather than provide a list of acceptable behaviors, the winner will always consult with the producer before embarking on social media posts, public speaking or other forms of communication that violate the spirit and image of the title and contest.

**Communication with Producer(s)**

**ICP** will maintain an open dialog with the Producer regarding the **ICP** goals for the title year. This is important so that the Producer can promote the **ICP** and contest while being consistent with **ICP** goals. The Producer and **ICP** will work together to achieve **ICP** goals.

**Event Requirements**

The **ICP** is expected to attend and represent at a minimum of three (3) pup related events during their title year. One of those events shall be held at **PTown Bar** in coordination with **Pittsburgh Kennel Club, PLP LLC, and Barons of Steel**. The second event will be a public awareness campaign for the **Pittsburgh Humane Society** and the third will be a volunteer effort at one of **Shepherd Wellness Centers** monthly dinner.

The **ICP** will serve as head judge for the preceding year contest and shall be responsible for recruiting contestants.

The **ICP** will consult with the producer about other events they would like to attend and the **ICP** is prohibited from competing at any other contest during their title year.

**If the ICP is unable to fulfill their duties or their title is revoked, the ICP will return all title items and prize monies to the Producer.**

**Contest Components.**

Each contestant of the **Iron City Pup Contest** will be judged in four (4) different categories.

Besides the judging criteria below, any part of the contest-at-large may have points deducted by the judges for tardiness, fraternization with the judges and generally egregious behavior.

**Use of illegal substances, physical altercations/ non-consenting engagement, or public intoxication will result in immediate removal from competition.**

### **Weekend Social Image – 20 points TOTAL**

Evaluation of the contestant from the time the contestant is introduced to the public Friday evening until the beginning of the on-stage contest Saturday evening. Judges will award points based on their opinions of how each contestant behaves and interacts socially with the community and judges as a Puppy.

### **Interviews – 40 points TOTAL.**

An opportunity for the judges to directly assess the aptitude, capabilities and potential of the contestant to fulfill the role of title holder. Each contestant will be presented to the judging panel for a private fifteen (15) minute interview. The Producer (or assigned) will moderate the interview, ensuring each judge is given an opportunity to ask questions and intervening if any question is deemed inappropriate. All contestants will be in the vicinity during the interview process so that they may be recalled for further questions if necessary.

### **Headspace Scene – 25 points TOTAL.**

This section of the contest is where the contestants will demonstrate their headspace as a Pup.

Contestants are given 2-4 minutes to show the judges and audience how they personally experience and embrace the headspace of the title they are running for.

During this section, contestants may enlist the help of up to two additional (non-judged) helpers to assist in creating the atmosphere that showcases their headspace. Music may be provided (mp3 preferred) to contest ahead of time to be played during the scene, and a microphone can be made available as well – alternatively, contestants may ask the DJ for a generic backing track to be played if desired.

Props may be used and there will be no more than 1 minute for setup and teardown and that there is no room provided to store elaborate sets – the goal is to demonstrate the contestant's headspace, not their decorating skills.

**Pup mats will be already set up in the scene area.**

### **Speech – 15 points TOTAL.**

The speech is an opportunity for the contestant to share something they are passionate about with their community. Judges will award points based on speech content and delivery. The speech should last between ninety (90) and one hundred and twenty (120) seconds, running over will incur an automatic 5-point penalty, however the contestant will not be interrupted or stopped once the time has expired.

## Application Checklist:

Digital Photograph – **Your digital photo must be a shoulder to top of head without pup gear.**

This photo **will be** provided to the judges along with your application.

Please, **email** the photo to the address above with your application.

**Your photo does not need to be professional or artistic** – it's simply used as a behind-the-scenes “cheat sheet” so the judges can easily recognize you and not intended for public consumption – it will not be blown up to large scale or used for publicity, rather just used in thumb-nail size on paper provided to the judges.

- **Contest Application** – Feel free to use the PDF text feature to type your application and save it before printing or emailing.
- **Photographic & Image Release Waver/ Liability Waiver and Media Release.** These must be printed, signed in witness of the producer or representative and handed over before the start of the contest.
- **A copy of your driver's license** or a current photo ID indicating your date of birth. (This remains confidential and is simply to validate age and identity.

## Photographic & Image Release Waiver

I, the undersigned, hereby give **Pittsburgh Kennel Club, BOS, PLP LLC & Contests (3)** (the contests), its photographers, legal representatives, agents or assigns, the right and permission to copyright, use, reuse, broadcast and/or publish any and all photographic pictures (including digital images and pictures) of me, which shall be taken during the contest, or as a result of my preparation for the contest, or as a result of my having participated in the contest, Pictures, as herein, shall include portraits or reproductions thereof, including audio and videotapes, made through any media.

I further assign the right to use such pictures in conjunction with my stage name, and through any media outlets, for any purpose deemed appropriate by the Producer (Producers). I hereby waive any right to inspect or approve the finished pictures or the method of their eventual use, including any related audio, video or printed copy that may be used in conjunction therewith.

I hereby release, discharge, and agree to hold harmless **Pittsburgh Kennel Club, BOS, PLP LLC and the Producer(s)**, their photographers, legal representatives, agents or assigns, including those publishing and/or distributing the finished product, in whole or in part, from and against any liability or claim as a result of the use or publication of said pictures, including from any distortion, blurring, alteration, optical illusion or use in composite form, either intentionally or otherwise, that may occur or be produced in the taking, processing or reproduction of the pictures, their publication or distribution.

I have read the foregoing **Release and Waiver** before signing below. I warrant my full understanding of its contents, and that I am of legal age to give my consent in this state.

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

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Contestant Indemnification

I hereby certify that I have attained at least twenty-one (21) years of age and that I, based upon mutual covenants and considerations (**including granting me the privilege of attending and participating in the Pittsburgh Leather PRIDE Weekend and contests**) will not hold the Producer(s), nor the individual and collective owners, officers, agents and employees thereof liable for any injury to my person or property during the period of the **Contests and Pittsburgh Leather Weekend**, and I further agree to indemnify and save harmless the producer(s), the individual and collective owners, officers, agents and employees thereof from any and all liability, injury or economic loss or other damage.

## Compliance

By signing below, I agree to comply with all rules and regulations set forth by **Mr Pittsburgh Leather Fetish/ Mr Pittsburgh Leather Bear/ Iron City Pup Contest**.

I certify that all information provided on the accompanying forms are accurate. I certify that I meet all qualifications specified in the **Qualification Statement\***.

**I understand that if I win the contest, I will be expected to fulfill the duties of the title as outlined in this guide.**

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

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Witnessed by (Contest Representative): \_\_\_\_\_