



Welcome to Pacific West Mr. Bootblack 2004!

In this Document, you will find Rules and Regulations, Information on how the Contest is run, and a Contestant Application.

Qualifications - Contestants

- 1) Contestants must be 21 years of age. Proof of age is required;
- 2) Contestants must be male as shown on their legal identification;
- 3) Contestants must have a demonstrated interest in bootblacking, as determined by the judging panel;
- 4) Contestants must be a resident of the region that includes the states of California, Oregon, Washington, North & South Dakota, Nebraska, Utah, Nevada, Montana, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona, or upon agreement of the Contest Producer;
- 5) Contestants must not hold a current bootblack title earned in another bootblack title contest nor can he be a past International Mr. Bootblack Titleholder;
- 6) Contestants must agree to appear onstage wearing appropriate gear and perform several bootblack functions;
- 7) Contestants must own all supplies used during the contest, except for items provided for *all* Contestants. Boxes/risers, stage & dropcloths are provided;
- 8) Contestants must put together a basket of items to be auctioned at the Contest, which will help supply the Travel Fund;
- 9) Contestants must agree to represent his Pacific West Bootblack title, if he wins, throughout his title year and, except for competing in the International Bootblack Contest, refrain from competing in any other Bootblack title contest until the conclusion of his title year;
- 10) Contestants must agree to permit on-stage photographs to be taken of him for the use on the Pacific West Bootblack web site.
- 11) Contestants must agree to refrain from posing for explicit photographs to be published in any print or electronic media without the consent of the Producers of the Pacific West Bootblack Contests.

Contestants may be sponsored by a club or business, or self-sponsored. In the event of only one Contestant, he must score at least 70% of the Maximum to be declared the winner.

Scoring - Contestants

Contestants shall be scored by a combination of panel of Judges, A panel of five to seven Judges shall be used. A combination of Olympic scoring system and public ballots shall be used in the categories and with points outlined below:

- 1) **Interview - *Maximum 40 points***- Each Contestant will be pre-screened by an adjudication staff. Contestants will be asked questions based upon their applications and their own abilities. They will be asked what they bring to their communities as bootblacks, to our leather communities, and various other questions about themselves. The Interview shall take approximately 10 minutes per Contestant, with approximately 5 minute break between.
- 2) **Social Skills, Originality & Presentation - *Maximum 60 points***- Each Contestant will have exactly 1 hour to complete the setting up of his own area, shining or greasing a pair of boots, and completing the finishing touches. If a contestant goes over the 60 minute time allotment, a 1-point penalty reduction is assessed for every minute over. While a score of zero is possible because of penalties, negative scores are not. No “bonus” points are given to a Contestant who finishes before the 1 hour limit. Scoring is performed by the Judges.
- 3) **“Ballot Shines” - *Maximum 100 points*** - Each Contestant will have stations at the Vendor Mart and will bootblack for 8 hours the first day, and 6 hours the second day. The public is invited to “vote” by giving the ballots that they hold to their preferred bootblack, and at the end of each day, those collected ballots must be given to the Tallymaster by the Contestant. Ballots are given to anyone who has purchased an event Package, and only one ballot per paid participant is distributed. Points are distributed according to the percentage of TOTAL ballots cast by the public.
- 4) **Onstage Presence - *Maximum 50 points*** - Each contestant will be presented onstage to introduce himself to the audience and briefly describe his background or interest in bootblacking, while wearing the attire that best represents his image of a bootblack. He will be judged on appearance and on a question asked by the Emcee while onstage. Scoring is performed by the Judges.

Once the scores are collected, the three totals from categories 1, 2, and 4 above are divided by the number of judges to produce adjusted total scores, with a maximum value equal to the maximum indicated in these categories. The percentage of the total ballots for each Contestant is added to these adjusted totals to produce the final score. A maximum “perfect” score of 250 points is possible.

The Contestant with the highest final score is declared the winner. In the event of a tie, the non-Olympic scores will be used to determine the winner.

Qualifications - Judges & Tallymaster

The Judges of the Pacific West Bootblack Contests:

- 1) Judges must be 21 years of age. Proof of age is required;
- 2) Judges must not be current partners or close associates of the Contestants;
- 3) Judges may not not be Contest Sponsors.

The Contest Sponsors encouraged the choice of judges who will reflect the diversity of the leather and gay communities, and attract attendees and press coverage of the events. While many Judges may be former titleholders, leather club officers, members of the press, or representatives of gay charities and community organizations, the chosen judges should have some interest in bootblacking either as a profession or hobby.

The Contest Sponsors have made an effort to select the best from our vast community, including persons of color, leather women and transgenders, tops and bottoms, and non-leather persons for their judging panels, although not all groups may be represented within any one judging panel.

Judges shall be prohibited from having private meetings or engaging in sexual activity or play with the contestants prior to the announcement of the results. Any behavior that might create even the appearance of bias will be brought to the attention of the Head Judge, who will decide if the disqualification of the Judge and/or Contestant is warranted. To avoid accidental violation of this policy, all Contestants and Judges should display their identification badges at all Contest Events.

Judges are strongly encouraged to NOT discuss their votes with anyone, including other Judges, Contestants, or partners during the Contest. However, after the Contest, a Contestant may inquire about his performance in private, and the Judge may discuss it with him. This encourages growth, particularly important for the winning Contestant who wishes to go on to win the International Bootblack title.

The Tallymaster must meet the same qualifications as Judges. The Tallymaster shall collect the judges' scores and tally the results using the tally sheets provided or a comparable computer program. The Tallymaster shall keep the scores confidential from Judges, Audience and Contestants until the final tally. The final tally shall be verified by the Contest Sponsor and signed by the Judges prior to the announcement of the winner and runner-up. On the tally sheets, the Judges shall be identified only by their numbers, which the Tallymaster shall randomly assign prior to the contest and keep confidential from Contestants, other Judges, and the Audience. The final tally sheet shall be made available to contestants upon request immediately after the announcement of the results and may be mailed to the contestants after the contest. Copies of the final tally sheets shall be maintained by the Sponsor for at least one year.

Staff - Duties

The Staff of the Pacific West Bootblack Contest include the following:

- 1) **Producer** - has final decision on all aspects of the Contest;
- 2) **Coordinator** - ;
- 3) **Judges** - primarily responsible in determining the best-qualified Contestant. Judges are also the “Boot Models” for the “Social Skills, Originality & Presentation” category of the Contest. The Judging panel includes -
 - a) **Head Judge** who reviews the scoring parameters with the other Judges, keeps track of the time during timed categories.
 - b) **Political or Legal Figure**
 - c) **Current Int’l Mr. Bootblack Titleholder or Leather Titleholder**
 - d) **Current Int’l Ms. Bootblack Titleholder**
 - e) Other Judge(s) as chosen by the Producer.
- 4) **Tallymaster** - responsible for an accurate count of the judges scores and ballots, Totals scores according to the prescribed formulae, and presents the results to the Producer and to the Emcee.
- 5) **Emcee** - partially entertainer, partially presenter, the Emcee keeps the public event moving smoothly so the audience is entertained and enjoys “The Contest”.
- 6) **Den Person(s)** - usually a former titleholder, coordinates the Contestants, introduces them to the Judges at the Interview portion of the Contest.
- 7) **Judges’ boy** - helps Judges with incidental needs, coordinating time & other aspects with the Judges.

As they arrive, the Contestants and Staff shall be provided with a detailed Schedule of Events which describes the following:

- 1) **WHEN** it happens - The Time of the Event.
- 2) **WHAT** it is - For example, “Judging Interview”.
- 3) **WHERE** it is held - Location of the Event.
- 4) **WHO** is involved - For example, Contestants, Judges, other Staff, Public.

Preliminary Schedules shall be posted on the Pacific West Bootblack [<http://www.geocities.com/PacificWestBootblack>] website prior to the Contest.

A Calendar of Events, which are the “public” events shall also be posted. This includes information about the Vendor Mart and the Public Ballots, and contains times and locations.

Incidentals - Contestants, Judges & Other Staff

Upon arrival, all Contestants, Judges and Other Staff will receive a Packet of Information. This packet will include, but not be limited to the following:

- 1) A detailed **Schedule of Events** which includes information regarding when, where and who are involved;
- 2) An **Identification Badge** which must be worn to all Scheduled Events. This allows Contestants, Judges and Staff to be recognizable. It gains you entry to ALL events without being a “paying customer”. It also identifies you as a participant with extra privileges.
- 3) A **Map of Guerneville** with all locations where you are likely to be required clearly marked.
- 4) A **Program** with pictures and bios of the Judges and Other Staff.
- 5) A copy of these **Rules** and other Information.

Contestants’ Order of Placement shall be determined Friday by choosing a number out of a fishbowl or similar container. This number determines the order in which you are introduced to the Judges on Saturday and the Audience on Sunday.

Drunken, Drugged, or Disorderly Behavior may be cause for dismissal for Contestants, Judges, or any other Staff. We’ve all got jobs to do that weekend, and recreational drug use (whether alcohol or non-prescription formulas) are not conducive to giving our best performances.

Public Ballots are given, one to each paid attendee. Contestants, Judges and Other Staff *do not* get Ballots. The public has the chance to observe each Contestant in action on Saturday afternoon and Sunday, and give his or her Ballot to their favorite bootblack. Contestants cannot accept ballots unless working. If seen doing so, the Contestant may stand the risk of disqualification, have his Application pulled, and will be asked to discontinue his participation in the Contest.

Ballots MUST be turned in at the end of each day to the Tallymaster. Failure to do so forfeits the ballots for that day.

The Judges are asked to score according to these principles:

- 1) **Speed and Accuracy** in the craft of the Contestants. Are the Bootblacks paying close attention to details?
- 1) **Customer Relations** by the Contestants. How well did the Bootblacks relate to their Customers?
- 1) **The Entire Package** or “The Show”. Did the Bootblack strike you as different from the rest?

Scoring - Interviews, Bootblacking, Onstage

As you may have guessed, we're looking for a person to represent the entire West Coast as a titleholder to compete at the International Mr. Bootblack 2004 Contest in Chicago this coming May. We want someone who can best represent our region of the country. In the event of only one Contestant, he must score at least 70% of the Maximum to be declared the winner. In such a case, Judges are encouraged to judge with the same criteria as they would for a Contest with several competitors.

Interview - You may base your interview questions and scoring decisions on what you read on the Contestants' Applications, what you see, your personal experiences with other bootblacks, history, and leather lifestyles, past, present, or future.

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- **Speed and Accuracy** in the craft of the Contestants. Are the Bootblacks paying close attention to details?
- **Customer Relations** by the Contestants. How well did the Bootblacks relate to their Customers?
- **The Entire Package** or "The Show". Did the the Bootblack strike you as different from the rest?
- **History & Knowledge** of leather titles is not a requirement. However, the Contestant should be familiar with all boot anatomy, boot care and product knowledge.

60 Minute Test - Please take all you see into careful consideration. You should base your scoring decisions on what you observe. For example, did the Contestant untie the boots and tie them back the way he found them? Did he offer to educate the Customer in some way that was helpful? You may ask the Contestants questions during their work, but please limit those to logical, relevant questions - remember, he only has 60 minutes to complete his tasks.

Onstage Presence - Observe how comfortable the Contestant appears onstage, in the eye of the Public. Does he answer the question put to him by the Emcee correctly or with a unique perspective? Are they honest answers or is he trying to second-guess the Judges? Although this is definitely not a "beauty contest", does he look like he takes a little time to be presentable, or does he look slovenly or too primped? Remember, the Public is likely to be more judgemental of his physical features than his actual bootblacking knowledge or skills.

The Winner - Pronouncements, Prizes, Responsibilities

It is expected that at least three Contestants will enter the Contest. If there are three or more Contestants, only the Contestants with the highest three scores will be announced. The Contestant with the highest score is pronounced the new Pacific West Mr. Bootblack. The Contestant with the second highest score will be pronounced "First Runner-Up", and the third highest score will be "Second Runner-Up". Should there be more than three Contestants, other placements will be made onstage.

In order to build up the drama of the Contest, the Second Runner-Up will be announced first, then the First Runner-Up, and finally the new titleholder, Pacific West Mr. Bootblack.

The three highest-scoring Contestants also will receive items as part of their prizes.

The Winner gets

- A "Gold Medal";
- Vest patch and the Title Vest;
- Fifty Travel Fund pins;
- A cash award (amount yet to be determined);
- Trip to IML in Chicago, IL to compete at International Mr Bootblack in May 2004;
- A set of "Brass shoe racks" from the Producer;
- Pacific West Mr. Bootblack 2004 T-shirt;
- Other prizes from the Vendors & Advertisers.

First Runner-Up receives

- A "Silver Medal" with the Pacific West Mr. Bootblack logo on the front and "1st Runner-Up" on the back;
- Pacific West Mr. Bootblack 2004 T-shirt;
- Drink Tickets.

Second Runner-Up receives

- A "Pacific West Bootblack Brotherhood Award Certificate"
- Pacific West Mr. Bootblack 2004 T-shirt;
- Drink Tickets.

Besides traveling to Chicago to compete for the International Mr. Bootblack title, the Pacific West Mr. Bootblack has responsibilities as a titleholder. These include his:

- Representing the title and the community with dignity;
- Participation in local activities;
- Promoting local events, especially fundraisers for charities;
- Producing at least one fundraiser during his title-year;
- Participating as a Judge for next year's Pacific West Bootblack Contests.

Best of Luck to All Contestants!