

PITTSBURGH LEATHER PRIDE LLC

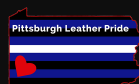
PLP 2026

CONTESTANT MANUAL

STEEL CITY FETISH CON · MR./MS. PITTSBURGH LEATHER FETISH · MR. PITTSBURGH LEATHER
BEAR · IRON CITY PET

REVISED AUGUST 2026 · FOR CONTESTANT AND INTERNAL USE

CONFIDENTIAL



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WHO CAN COMPETE

RULES & ELIGIBILITY

ALL TITLES

These apply to all four titles. Anything specific to your contest is in its section below.

- **You must be 21 years or older on the date of the first round to compete.**
- **The role is unpaid.** Titleholding is a volunteer and community role. PLP does not pay you to attend events it asks you to attend.
- **The title and the sash belong to PLP.** You hold the sash for one year and return the following year to pass it to your successor at the close of the contest. If you cannot attend, tell your producer and return the sash at least two weeks before contest day so a proxy can present it.
- **Represent the title.** Attend and march in the Pittsburgh Pride parade with the leather contingent (or pet contingent for Iron City Pet). Represent your title and the city of Pittsburgh as an ambassador at other contests and events throughout your title year.
- **Market your contest.** Source contestants for the next year's class of contestants.
- **Producing events.** All events you produce during your title year must be produced in partnership with the producer of your title. Titleholders are not to found contests during their title year. To avoid overlap or conflict, disclose any events you are already running to the producer of your title prior to competing.
- **Conduct.** You are bound by the PLP Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Policy for your full title year. Read it at pghlpw.com/policies.

MR. PITTSBURGH LEATHER FETISH

ELIGIBILITY

- Identify as a gay, bi, or straight man.
- Be at least 21 years of age.
- Be a resident of the USA.
- Possess a valid government-issued photo ID (driver's license or passport) in their own name.

WINNER EXPECTATIONS

- Represent Pittsburgh Leather Pride by wearing the title sash at local PLP and LGBTQIA+ events, including Pittsburgh Pride.
- Represent the leather community positively and encourage others to become more active in the community.
- Maintain a positive social media presence.
- Raise \$500 (or more) to seed the travel fund for next year's class of titleholders.

- Promote contestant participation in next year's contest and be available (to the best of your ability) to answer questions from new contestants about their experience as a contestant and titleholder.
- Serve as a judge for the upcoming year's contest.
- Offer reasonable support and mentorship to next year's titleholder.

MS. PITTSBURGH LEATHER FETISH

ELIGIBILITY

- Identify as a woman (transgender or cisgender), a leatherdyke, and/or as an intersex, genderqueer, or gender non-conforming person who feels they have a place in the women's leather community.
- Be 21 years or older by the date of the contest.
- Be a part-time or full-time resident of Allegheny County.
- Possess a valid government-issued ID, such as a driver's license or passport, which will be attached to their application to show proof of age and residence.

WINNER EXPECTATIONS

- Represent Pittsburgh Leather Pride by wearing the title sash at local PLP and LGBTQIA+ events, including Pittsburgh Pride.
- Represent Pittsburgh leather women positively and encourage other leather women to become more active in the community.
- Maintain a positive social media presence.
- Host at least one educational or social community event for leather women in Pittsburgh.
- Raise \$500 (or more) to seed the travel fund for next year's class of titleholders.
- Promote contestant participation in next year's contest and be available (to the best of your ability) to answer questions from new contestants about their experience as a contestant and titleholder.
- Serve as a judge for the upcoming year's contest.
- Offer reasonable support and mentorship to next year's titleholder.

MR. PITTSBURGH LEATHER BEAR

ELIGIBILITY

- Identify as a gay, bi, or straight man.
- Be at least 21 years of age.
- Be a resident of the USA.
- Possess a valid government-issued photo ID (driver's license or passport) in their own name.

WINNER EXPECTATIONS

- Represent Pittsburgh Leather Pride by wearing the title sash at local PLP and LGBTQIA+ events, including Pittsburgh Pride.
- Represent the leather community positively and encourage others to become more active in the community.
- Maintain a positive social media presence.
- Raise \$500 (or more) to seed the travel fund for next year's class of titleholders.
- Promote contestant participation in next year's contest and be available (to the best of your ability) to answer questions from new contestants about their experience as a contestant and titleholder.
- Serve as a judge for the upcoming year's contest.
- Offer reasonable support and mentorship to next year's titleholder.

IRON CITY PET

Iron City Pet Contest (ICPC) is an open pet contest produced by Pittsburgh Leather PRIDE LLC, Steel City Fetish Con, and Steel City Pups. Anyone 21 years of age or older may compete, regardless of gender identity.

ELIGIBILITY

- Be 21 years of age or older.
- Complete the contest application and submit all required documents.
- Agree to the rules and guidelines set forth in this manual.

WINNER EXPECTATIONS

- Build and maintain a positive, respectful public image for the contest, Steel City Pups, and Pittsburgh Leather PRIDE LLC.
- Maintain open communication with the Producer about goals for the title year.
- Attend and represent at a minimum of three pet-related events during the title year: one outside Greater Pittsburgh, one as a public awareness campaign with a local affiliate, and one as a charity event of the titleholder's choice.
- Serve as head judge for the following year's contest and assist in recruiting contestants.
- Wear the sash for the title year and return to pass it to your successor. If the title is revoked or you are unable to fulfill your duties, regalia and prize items return under the PLP Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Policy, Section 8.4. See Titles, Sashes, and Regalia below.

TITLES, SASHES, AND REGALIA

Every sash issued by a PLP title program is the property of Pittsburgh Leather PRIDE. It is not awarded, and it is not won.

A titleholder receives their sash to wear for the duration of their title year. They return the following year to pass it to their successor at the conclusion of the contest. The sash moves from one holder to the next and remains PLP

property throughout. A titleholder who completes their year returns the sash and keeps their vest, their medal, and any other item designated as theirs to keep.

The full terms, including notice requirements where a titleholder cannot attend the following year's contest, and the return of regalia on removal or abdication, are set out in the PLP Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Policy at pghlpw.com/policies.

POLICIES

CONDUCT

GOVERNING DOCUMENT

Conduct for contestants and titleholders is governed by the **PLP Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Policy**, published at pghlpw.com/policies. It replaces the conduct, drug, alcohol, and social media policies that appeared in earlier revisions of this manual. You agree to it as part of your application.

Read it before you apply. It is the document that governs what is expected of you, what is prohibited, how a report is made, how the PLP Board handles one, and what happens to a title and its regalia if a matter is upheld. It applies to conduct whether or not that conduct occurred at a PLP event, and it continues to apply for as long as you hold the role.

Sections that bear most directly on competing:

- **Section 5, Prohibited conduct.** Covers conduct toward people, discrimination, conduct toward other organizations and toward PLP, published statements, substance use, conduct at venues, age and exposure, and photography in private areas.
- **Section 8, Titles, regalia, and property.** Covers sash ownership and what returns at the end of a title year.
- **Section 9.1, Contestants.** Covers full disclosure, call times, required materials, and the raffle contribution.

The four policy sections that appeared in earlier revisions of this manual, Code of Conduct, Policy on Drugs, Policy on Alcohol, and Social Media Conduct, were superseded on August 2, 2026 and have been removed. Nothing in them survives outside the Code.

HOW YOU ARE SCORED

JUDGING & EVALUATION

SCORING SYSTEM

MR./MS. PITTSBURGH LEATHER FETISH & MR. PITTSBURGH LEATHER BEAR

PLP LLC uses Olympic Scoring. Each contestant's highest and lowest scores are removed. In the event of a tie, the high and low scores are added back to both tied contestants; the contestant with the higher total wins. If still tied, the contestant with the higher interview score wins. Score sheets and judge comments are distributed to all contestants within 30 days of the contest.

CONTEST CATEGORIES

MR./MS. PITTSBURGH LEATHER FETISH & MR. PITTSBURGH LEATHER BEAR

Judged in four rounds, 100 points total. Round 1 is scored Friday night at the Meet & Greet; all remaining rounds take place Saturday. Ambassador scoring, previously a separate 10-point category, has been retired for 2026.

Round 1: Bar Wear & Introduction/Pop Question

15 POINTS

Your chance to show the judges and audience who you are in your leather, fetish, or bear gear. The look should reflect what you would wear to a bar or event.

- Each contestant will be introduced and draw their number on stage one by one. They will then provide a brief tagline or introductory statement.
- Judges evaluate creativity, fit, polish, comfort in the outfit, the level of ease in the spotlight, and connection with the audience.

Scoring breakdown. Bar Wear look: 10 points. Pop Question or Introduction: 5 points.

Round 2: Interview

35 POINTS

An informal, casual interview with the judging panel. You may sit or stand. Questions come from your application only. There will be no questions about leather history, politics, religion, or current events.

- Judges will evaluate character, charisma, personality, communication skills, intellect, attitude, and composure.
- Attend the interview as yourself, in comfortable clothing.
- Interviews last approximately 10–15 minutes.

Round 3: Skin & Swim**15 POINTS**

This is a personality and body celebration, not a body competition. Genitalia must remain covered. Think burlesque or Southern Decadence.

- Contestants are introduced by the MC with a preview of their fetishes, personality, and what makes them unique.
- Judges evaluate authenticity, creativity, stage presence, and comfort being vulnerable and exposed.

Round 4: Formal & Speech**35 POINTS**

Your interpretation of formal, fetish, or fantasy wear. The look should reflect what you might wear to a special event such as a gala. Examples: formal pup/pet wear, suit and tie, period costume, military uniform, rubber formal.

- Judges review your overall appearance, including your comfort onstage, and the fit, uniqueness, and execution of your formal interpretation.
- Your 90-second speech should answer: "Should you win the title, what contribution(s) would you make to our local leather community?" For example, starting an event you feel is missing from Pittsburgh's fetish and kink community, or how you plan to help the community grow and thrive.
- Judges listen for personality, authenticity, and connection with the audience.
- You will be signaled at 15 seconds remaining, 5 seconds remaining, and when your time is up.
- Running 1-30 seconds over incurs an automatic 5-point penalty; you will not be stopped. Running more than 30 seconds over incurs an automatic 10-point penalty and your microphone will be cut.

Scoring breakdown. Formal look: 20 points. Speech: 15 points.

IRON CITY PET: CONTEST CATEGORIES

Weekend Social Image**20 POINTS**

Evaluated from your public introduction Friday evening through the start of on-stage competition Saturday evening. Judges award points based on how you behave and interact socially with the community as a pet.

Interviews**40 POINTS**

A private 15-minute interview with the judging panel, moderated by the Producer. All contestants remain nearby during interviews in case of recall.

Headspace Scene**25 POINTS**

2–4 minutes to demonstrate your headspace as a pet. Up to two non-judged helpers may assist. Music (MP3) may be provided in advance. Props allowed with a maximum 1-minute setup and teardown. Pup mats provided.

Music deadline. Headspace music is due no later than seven days before the event. See Application Requirements.

Speech**15 POINTS**

Your 90-second speech should answer: “Should you win the title, what contribution(s) would you make to our local leather community?” For example, starting an event you feel is missing from Pittsburgh’s fetish and kink community, or how you plan to help the community grow and thrive.

- Judges listen for personality, authenticity, and connection with the audience.
- You will be signaled at 15 seconds remaining, 5 seconds remaining, and when your time is up.
- Running 1–30 seconds over incurs an automatic 5-point penalty; you will not be stopped. Running more than 30 seconds over incurs an automatic 10-point penalty and your microphone will be cut.

NOTE

Points may be deducted at any time during the weekend for tardiness, fraternization with judges, or egregious behavior. Use of illegal substances, physical altercations, non-consenting engagement, or public intoxication results in immediate removal from the competition.

WHAT TO SUBMIT

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

ALL TITLES

All of the following must be submitted for an application to be considered complete. Applications are submitted online at pghlpw.com.

1. **Completed online application form.**

Complete the application at pghlpw.com/contest/apply and select your title category. All fields marked as required must be filled in.

2. **Headshot photo, minimum 2448 × 3264 pixels at 300 DPI.**

Portrait orientation. Head and shoulders clearly visible. No hats, hoods, or face coverings. Plain or dark background preferred. No filters. This photo will appear on your public contestant profile at pghlpw.com AND may be used in print materials including banners, programs, and promotional media. Take it on your smartphone camera at full resolution. Do not use a screenshot or heavily edited image.

3. **Government-issued photo ID upload.**

A scan or photo of your driver's license or passport showing your date of birth. Used for age and identity verification only. Strictly confidential, never published.

4. **Signed Photographic & Image Release Waiver.**

Must be uploaded as an attachment to the online application. This is a required field. Applications cannot be submitted without it. The waiver form is available to download at pghlpw.com/contest/apply.

5. **Digital agreement to the PLP Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Policy and the Contestant Indemnification.**

Both documents must be opened, read, and agreed to via checkbox on the online application form. By checking the box, you certify that you have read and agree to the terms.

IRON CITY PET CONTESTANTS ONLY: HEADSPACE MUSIC

Headspace music is due no later than **seven days before the event**. Supply it as an **MP3 or another common audio file**. Links to YouTube, Spotify, Apple Music, or any other streaming service will not be accepted, and neither will a track name for PLP to source. A contestant who does not submit a usable file by the deadline performs without music.

WET SIGNATURE REQUIREMENT

Digital agreements via the online form satisfy the application requirement. The producer is reviewing whether in-person wet signatures will still be required at contestant check-in on the day of the event. Contestants will be notified of any check-in requirements in advance.

CONTESTANT REQUIREMENT

RAFFLE: CLASS BASKET CONTRIBUTION

The SCFC 2026 raffle is built around **class baskets**: one prize basket per contest, arranged by Pittsburgh Leather PRIDE. You are expected to contribute **at least one item that represents who you are as a leather person** to your contest's basket. You do not build or decorate a basket yourself.

This is a contestant requirement, not a titleholder requirement. It applies whether or not you win.

ITEM SUBMISSION DEADLINE

SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

Deliver your item or items to the **Contest Producer or their named delegate** by this date, together with your required submission details. Late submissions cannot be guaranteed a place in your contest's basket.

WHAT YOU CONTRIBUTE

- **At least one item.** There is no minimum donation value, though \$50 and above is suggested. You are welcome to contribute more than one item.
- **Where it comes from.** Items can be donated by vendors or businesses you reach out to, drawn from your personal collection, or made and crafted by you.
- **Submission details.** Provide your name, the title you are competing for, and your item or items with values. If you donate more than one item, provide an itemized list and a cumulative total.
- **Transportability.** Every item must be reasonably transportable and shippable to a winner. PLP will not take on liability for transporting oversized or heavy items.

HOW THE RAFFLE WORKS

- Pittsburgh Leather PRIDE arranges the contributed items into one basket per contest: Mr. Pittsburgh Leather Fetish, Ms. Pittsburgh Leather Fetish, Mr. Pittsburgh Leather Bear, and Iron City Pet.
- Raffle tickets go on sale at the Friday, October 9 meet-and-greet, sold by contestants, who are encouraged but not required to sell.
- Sales continue into Saturday, October 10 through the first portion of the evening, sold by event staff.
- Baskets are drawn for during the Saturday, October 10 contest, with winners announced by the emcee or emcees.
- Raffle winners must be present at the contest to claim their prize.
- Ticket pricing and full rules will be posted at the event and are subject to change.
- All proceeds from the raffle go back into Pittsburgh Leather PRIDE.

FULL GUIDE

The **SCFC 2026 Raffle Donation Guide** is published at pghlpw.com/contest/#resources and can be downloaded at any time. You do not need to wait for acceptance to read it, and you are welcome to share it with a business you are approaching. It covers what to contribute, what you can and cannot promise a donor, and how a raffle item differs from In-Kind sponsorship. Questions about the raffle? Contact the Contest Producer.

BEFORE YOU SUBMIT

CONTESTANT CHECKLIST & HOW TO APPLY

Use this checklist to confirm your application is complete before submitting. All items are required.

☐ **Complete the online application form**

Go to pghlpw.com/contest/apply and select your title category. Fill in all required fields including your legal name, contact information, emergency contact, bio, and community history.

☐ **Upload your headshot photo**

Minimum 2448 × 3264 pixels, 300 DPI, portrait orientation. Taken on your smartphone at full resolution. Head and shoulders, face visible, no hats or hoods. This photo will be used publicly on your contestant profile and in print materials.

☐ **Upload your government-issued photo ID**

Driver's license or passport showing date of birth. Confidential, used for verification only.

☐ **Download, sign, and upload the Photographic & Image Release Waiver**

Download the waiver at pghlpw.com/contest/apply, sign it, and attach it to your application. This is required to submit. Your application cannot be processed without it.

☐ **Read and agree to the PLP Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Policy**

The Code is published at pghlpw.com/policies and is linked from the application form. Check the agreement box to confirm you have read and agree to abide by it.

☐ **Read and agree to the Contestant Indemnification**

The indemnification statement is available to review in this manual and on the application form. Check the agreement box to confirm your agreement.

☐ **Review and confirm all eligibility requirements for your title category**

See the Rules & Eligibility section of this manual. Confirm you meet all requirements before submitting.

☐ **Iron City Pet contestants: prepare your headspace music file**

Due no later than seven days before the event, as an MP3 or another common audio file. Streaming links are not accepted.

READY TO APPLY?

Submit your application online at:

pghlpw.com/contest/apply/mr-pittsburgh-leather-fetish

pghlpw.com/contest/apply/ms-pittsburgh-leather-fetish

pghlpw.com/contest/apply/mr-pittsburgh-leather-bear

pghlpw.com/contest/apply/iron-city-pet

REQUIRED AGREEMENTS

WAIVERS

These waivers must be completed as part of your application. Digital agreement is accepted via the online application form. A downloadable PDF version is also available at pghlpw.com/contest/apply for printing and physical signature if required.

PHOTOGRAPHIC & IMAGE RELEASE WAIVER

I, the undersigned, hereby give PITTSBURGH LEATHER PRIDE LLC, Steel City Fetish Con, Barons of Steel, Steel City Pups & Contests (collectively, "the Contests"), their 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, of me taken during the contest, in preparation for the contest, or as a result of my participation. Pictures shall include portraits and reproductions thereof, including audio and video recordings, through any media.

I assign the right to use such pictures in conjunction with my stage name through any media outlets, for any purpose deemed appropriate by the Producer(s). I waive any right to inspect or approve the finished pictures or the method of their use.

I release, discharge, and agree to hold harmless Pittsburgh Leather PRIDE LLC, Steel City Fetish Con, Barons of Steel, Steel City Pups, and the Producer(s), their photographers, legal representatives, agents, and assigns, from any liability as a result of the use or publication of said pictures, including from any distortion, blurring, alteration, or composite use, whether intentional or otherwise.

DATE _____

PRINTED NAME _____

SIGNATURE _____

CONTESTANT INDEMNIFICATION

I hereby certify that I am at least twenty-one (21) years of age. Based upon mutual covenants and considerations, including the privilege of attending and participating in Pittsburgh Leather PRIDE Weekend / Steel City Fetish Con and its contests, I agree not to hold the Producer(s), nor the owners, officers, agents, and employees thereof liable for any injury to my person or property during the contest and Pittsburgh Leather PRIDE Weekend / Steel City Fetish Con. I further agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Producer(s) and the owners, officers, agents, and employees thereof from any and all liability, injury, economic loss, or other damage.

By signing below, I agree to comply with all rules and regulations set forth in this manual. I certify that all information provided on my application is accurate, and that I meet all eligibility requirements for the title I am applying for. I understand that if I win, I am expected to fulfill the duties of the title as described in this guide.

DATE

PRINTED NAME

SIGNATURE

WITNESSED BY

THE RECORD

WINNER HISTORY

MR. PITTSBURGH LEATHER FETISH

2011	Dee
<i>Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather 2011 · First Runner-Up, 2011 International Mr. Leather · Most Decorated Male Pittsburgh Titleholder</i>	
2012	Matthew Bronson
<i>Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather 2012</i>	
2013	Bryce Cain
<i>Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather 2013</i>	
2014	Joseph Birdwell
<i>Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather 2014</i>	
2015	Ahren Hollis
<i>Second Runner-Up, 2015 Mid-Atlantic Leather</i>	
2016	Keith Greene
<i>Second Runner-Up, 2016 Mid-Atlantic Leather</i>	
2017	Martel Brown
<i>Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather 2017</i>	
2018	Greg Jones
<i>Top 20, 2019 International Mr. Leather</i>	
2019	Emerson Aniceto
<i>Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather 2019 · 6th Place, 2019 International Mr. Leather</i>	
2020, 2021 & 2022	David Spivey
<i>Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather 2020-2021 · Second Runner-Up, 2022 International Mr. Leather</i>	
2023	Gunner Scout
2024	Michael Tikilli
<i>Second Runner-Up, 2024 Mid-Atlantic Leather · Second Runner-Up, 2025 International Mr. Leather</i>	
2025	Brian "Brut" Mannas

2026	Gage Ryder
<i>Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather 2026 · 8th Place, 2026 International Mr. Leather</i>	

MS. PITTSBURGH LEATHER FETISH

2011	Jessi Strucaly
<i>Competed at 2011 International Ms. Leather</i>	
2012	Doc
<i>American Leather Women (ABW) 2012 · Most Decorated Female Pittsburgh Titleholder</i>	
2013	Minion
<i>Competed at 2013 International Ms. Leather · 2013 International Ms. Leather Spirit Award Recipient</i>	
2014	Kat S.
2015	Crystal M.
2016	Jen P.
2017-2024	No contest held.
2025	Brianna Serenity
2026	Camilla Ashton Queen

MR. PITTSBURGH LEATHER BEAR

2020-2021	Josh Englert
<i>First Runner-Up, 2022 Mid-Atlantic Leather</i>	
2022	Jeff "Maxxx" Hames
2023	Dan "Bear" DeLuca
<i>Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather 2023 · 10th Place, 2023 International Mr. Leather · Most Decorated Bear Titleholder</i>	
2024	Tony Ruiz
2025	Andrew "Sassquatch" Jacobsen
<i>First Runner-Up, 2025 Mid-Atlantic Leather</i>	
2026	Brad Dunlap

IRON CITY PET

2022	Pup Chaser
2023	Pup Slyder
2024	Crimby
2025	Lt. Mittens
2026	Princess Lavender