



Participation rules

This document contains the rules for participating in the 2024 Mr Fetish World contest. The contest will be held during the Darklands festival from Wednesday 28 February 2024 to Sunday 3 March 2024 in Antwerp (Belgium).

A warm welcome from the organiser

The Mr Fetish World is designed to unite our fetishes and create a nice and safe environment to enjoy your fetish(es).

The regulations below are designed to ensure your participation – and the event – is a fun experience that will give the international fetish community a positive boost.

We look forward to meeting you in Antwerp!

Fetish hugs

Andy Walgraef

Rules

Article 1. General rules

- a. These rules only apply to the 2024 edition of Mr Fetish World.
- b. All data requested from the contestant is stored in accordance with European GDPR regulations. After the competition, this data will be kept for a maximum of one month for administrative purposes. The winner's data will be kept until the end of the title year.
- c. Any candidate engaging in fraud or attempting to defraud immediately loses the right to participate in the competition without compensation. Contestants agree not to maintain a personal or sexual relationship of any kind with any member of the Jury thirty days before the start of the competition until the end of the competition. Organisation. Any damage resulting from fraud, including damage to the image of the Mr Fetish World organisation or its sponsors, will be recovered in full from the person who commits the fraud.

Article 2. Purpose

- a. Mr Fetish World aims to unite different fetishes that have been present at previous editions of Darklands. A committee, known as The Dark Five, will consider requests for the inclusion of fetishes which have not been present at Darklands before. Every decision of The Dark Five is final. See Article 3 for more information about the role of The Dark Five.
- b. The Mr Fetish World titleholder will reflect the diversity and richness of the entire fetish community.



Article 3. The Dark Five

- a. Mr Fetish World has established a board who act as judges, advisors ,and auditors. Known as the 'Dark Five', the board includes individuals who have excelled in their years of work for the international fetish community.
- b. The identity of The Dark Five remains anonymous at all times to ensure neutrality.
- c. Any contestant attempting to discover or disclose the identity of The Dark Five will have to leave the contest immediately and without any right to compensation.
- d. If the identity of any member of The Dark Five becomes known, they will be replaced immediately. A replacement is available for each member.
- e. The Dark Five will be present for the entire duration of the contest. They all play a role in the organisation or will be present in the audience.
- f. Any person you have contact with during the competition can be one of The Dark Five. Treat every member of the organisation with respect and you can't go wrong.
- g. The Dark Five can make discretionary decisions about everything. These decisions are final. Decisions are communicated to one or all contestants via the jury, the presenter, or the host.

Article 4. Contestants

- a. You must be 21 years or older, male, or transman. You need to be a citizen of planet earth, although we can make exceptions.
- b. You need to be available during Darklands from Wednesday 28 February 2024 until Sunday 3 March 2024. If you have any delay (flight/transport/other) contact the organiser as soon as possible. Our contact info (WhatsApp and email are at the bottom of this document). If we do not hear from you, , the organisation may assume that you no longer wish to participate in the contest. In this case you cannot claim any compensation and you will not receive your participation medal.
- c. You don't need to be a former titleholder to become a contestant.
- d. To enter the contest you cannot hold an active fetish-related title, or participate in an ongoing contest to become a fetish titleholder. If you become Mr Fetish World, you can only participate in other fetish contests when your title year ends. If this rule is not respected, the title will be cancelled and the organisation will reclaim the sash, prize pool, and full travel budget.
- e. All applications are processed by The Dark Five. Every candidate will be screened. If the registration contains inaccuracies or if the candidate lies, the application will be rejected. (see Article 1.c.).
- f. If we receive a high number of registrations for the same fetish, The Dark Five will make a selection. This will be done during preliminary judging and is based on your registration.
- g. Contestants who take part in activities or associations that spread or support ideas that go against the values currently acceptable within the international fetish or LGBTQIA+ communities are excluded from participating in this competition. The decision of The Dark Five is final.
- h. Confirmed contestants pay a participation fee of €75. The participation fee cannot be reclaimed in any way or for any reason. On arrival, each participant receives a badge with his contestant number. This badge provides access to all public events during Darklands. The badge doesn't include free entry to workshops or masterclasses and does not entitle the holder to free drinks or food. If the contestant decides to leave the competition for any reason, the badge is no longer valid. The former contestant will need to buy an entry ticket for the remaining duration of the Darklands.
- i. Each contestant will receive a medal of participation at the end of the contest. The rules ensure that a contestant who goes out in the first round can still return via an audience vote, the Golden Ticket, the Golden Buzzer, or through a decision of The Dark Five. For this reason, the medal is only presented when the contest has ended for the specific contestant.



- j. Registration takes place via a link on the webpage of Mr Fetish World. Carefully read the details of what is required and the dates items must be submitted. Contestants will be presented in registration order.
- k. Incomplete entries will be rejected and the prospective entrant will be notified.
- l. When the registration has been fully received and approved by The Dark Five and the contestant fee has been received, the contestant will receive final confirmation that they are a candidate. Further guidelines will be provided at this time.

Article 5. Judges/Scoring

- a. The judges for the Mr Fetish World election have been selected for their experience and knowledge of the fetish community. Selected judges receive no compensation and there are no commercial interests or incentives. Any attempt to influence the jury will be reported to The Dark Five. They have the right to expel the candidate from the competition without any compensation.
- b. All rounds are public. There are no interviews behind closed doors. The audience will witness the jury's work. The scoring is done in different ways.
- c. After final approval, each contestant receives information about the various rounds with a time schedule. The method of scoring will be clearly explained.

Article 6. Practical details

- a. Each contestant may be accompanied by one person. They can help with outfit changes, manage gear that you're not currently using, and provide you with moral support. External helper must stay in the background and are not part of the competition. They can assist their contestant. If a helper causes problems, delays, or makes the competition difficult in any way, the organisation can ban them from the holding room.
- b. The organisation will provide handlers. Contestants who do not bring their own helper have priority. Handlers are people from the fetish community who are not compensated for their work. Contestants who disrespect these people will no longer receive assistance and may be ejected from the competition.
- c. Upon arrival, and after showing us a valid photo ID, each contestant receives a badge, that gives access to all events at Darklands on the back. During the contest, each contestant must wear the badge with the contestant number clearly visible.
- d. All contestants will receive a clear time schedule before the contest. The time schedule states clearly where and when you need to be. The contest doesn't wait for you. If you don't show up on time, you will not be scored for that specific round.
- e. At the end of the contest, or when the contestant decides to leave the contest, he must return the badge and the lanyard in good condition. The badge has a value equivalent to a Darklands Madness Pass. In the event of a loss, the organisation can claim the equivalent value from the contestant.
- f. All communication should be by e-mail. It is also possible to have a short conversation via WhatsApp. Bear in mind that the organisation cannot immediately respond to every message.

Article 7. The new Mr Fetish World

- a. The winner of the Mr Fetish World election will represent the title for one year, or until the next edition of Darklands. During this period, the titleholder is not allowed to exploit his title commercially or to enrich himself in any way. Every request for participation or cooperation in a non-fetish or commercial event is done in consultation with the organisation of Mr Fetish World.
- b. The winner of the Mr Fetish World contest undertakes they will adopt an attitude consistent with the values and expectations of the international fetish community. Titleholders cannot make comments that are racist, discriminatory, contrary to the



interests and objectives of the international fetish community, or that imply that they encourage or have engaged in non-consensual sexual practices or practices that endanger sexual health.

- c. The organisation of the Mr Fetish World election reserves the right to initiate disciplinary proceedings which may lead to a sanction in the event of any breach of the rules.
- d. If the titleholder resigns or is no longer able to act as the titleholder, there is no automatic replacement. The Mr Fetish World organisation will decide, in consultation with The Dark Five, whether the title will be carried by another representative for the remaining time.

Article 8. Legal

- a. The organisation will not share the data obtained from contestants. The judges only receive necessary information about the candidate's fetish, stage name, and their country of origin. The only exception is the video and images that the contestant provides as part of their application.
- b. Voluntary participation - right to images. From the moment of application, each candidate undertakes to voluntarily participate in promotional or charitable events directly or indirectly related to the Mr Fetish World competition. Contestants authorise the Mr Fetish World organisation to use their stage name and image on all occasions related to the competition or at Mr Fetish World functions without limitation on duration. The winner of the Mr Fetish World title authorises the Mr Fetish World organisation to technically use, reuse, publish, edit, copy, reproduce, or modify their image free of charge, as long as it is identifiable or identified as Mr Fetish World. Contestants and winners of the Mr Fetish World contest acknowledge that they cannot claim any rights with regard to the products on which their name and/or image will be reproduced, nor can they exercise any right of control. They understand and agree to be exposed in the media as representatives of the LGBTQI+ fetish community and cannot hold the organisation of Mr Fetish World responsible for the consequences resulting from such activities.

IMPORTANT

If you have any questions, ask the organisation!


The other contestants may not have the answers that apply to your situation. We want everyone to be well-informed about the contest, so ask your questions via email to the right person.

By checking the box and signing below, I confirm that I have read and understand the rules of the Mr Fetish World contest rules and promise to comply with them. I acknowledge that in the event of a dispute, Belgian law applies.

WE ARE ONE VZW

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