Rules and Procedures for the combined I.B.M. and F.I.S.M. North America 2027 Contest and the I.B.M. Youth Contest.

1. Application and Selection of Competitors

All contestants must be **registered for the 2027 I.B.M. convention**.

The deadline for submitting your **contest application and video is April 1, 2027**.

Contestants will be selected by a panel of qualified judges based on their submitted videos.

Video Requirements

The act shown in your submitted video must be substantially the same act you intend to perform in competition in Las Vegas.

Any significant changes to the act after acceptance must be approved by the contest organizers.

Applicants will be notified of their selection status **no later than May 1, 2027**.

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2. Contest Schedule

All times and schedules are subject to change.

Close-Up Contest Finals

The Close-Up Contest Finals are scheduled for **Thursday 15 July 2027**.

Stage Contest Finals

The Stage Contest Finals will take place during **Friday 16 July evening International Stage Championship and Gala Show**.

Youth Contest

The Youth Contest will be a combined close-up and stand-up contest. The schedule will be announced separately.

Awards Ceremony

I.B.M. and F.I.S.M. results will be announced **Saturday evening at the beginning of the final Gala Show**.

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3. I.B.M. and F.I.S.M. Awards

The **I.B.M. judging panel** will determine the recipients of the I.B.M. contest awards.

The **People's Choice Awards** will be determined by audience vote.

The **F.I.S.M. jury** will determine the F.I.S.M. North American Champions, and which eligible contestants qualify to compete at the **2028 F.I.S.M. World Championship of Magic in South Korea**.

F.I.S.M. World Championship Qualification

Up to **15 competitors** may advance from the North American Championships to the 2028 World Championship. The highest-scoring qualifying performers will also be crowned the **F.I.S.M. North American Champions** in Stage and Close-Up Magic.

Contestants are responsible for all expenses for attending the World Championships, including but not limited to contest registration, travel, accommodation, meals, transportation, equipment, visas and any other costs associated with participating in the World Championship.

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4. I.B.M. Awards and Prizes

You must be an I.B.M. member to be eligible for these prizes.

For a prize to be awarded there must be at least 3 competitors in the division.

Stage - Youth Division

Ages 7–17

First Place: Trophy + $500 USD

I.B.M. Gold Medal International Award of Excellence: If the First Place winner is elevated to the Gold Medal, the contestant will receive the Gold Medal plus an **additional $2,000 USD**.

Award of Merit: $250 USD

Stage - Adult Division

Ages 18 and older

First Place: Trophy + $1,000 USD

I.B.M. Gold Medal International Award of Excellence: If the First Place winner is elevated to the Gold Medal, the contestant will receive the Gold Medal plus an **additional $2,000 USD**.

Award of Merit: $500 USD

Stage People's Choice Award

$500 USD

The winner will be selected by audience vote.

Close-Up – Youth Division

Ages 7–17

First Place: Trophy + $500 USD

I.B.M. Gold Cups International Award of Excellence: If the First Place winner is elevated to the Gold Cups, the contestant will receive the Gold Cups plus an **additional $2,000 USD**.

Award of Merit: $250 USD

Close-Up – Adult Division

Ages 18 and older

First Place: Trophy + $1,000 USD

I.B.M. Gold Cups International Award of Excellence: If the First-Place winner is elevated to the Gold Cups, the contestant will receive the Gold Cups plus an **additional $2,000 USD**.

Award of Merit: $500 USD

Close-Up People's Choice Award

$500 USD

The winner will be selected by audience vote.

Karrell Fox Comedy Award

A trophy may be awarded to a Stage contestant who demonstrates exceptional comedic skill, timing and wit.

This award is presented **only at the unanimous discretion of the judges** and is not necessarily awarded every year.

Fantasma Youth Prize Package

The overall **First Place winner of the Youth Contest** will receive a special prize package provided by Roger Dreyer and Fantasma Magic.

Full details of the 2027 Fantasma Youth Prize Package will be announced soon.

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5. Contestant Eligibility

I.B.M. Eligibility

Only current **I.B.M. members** are eligible to receive I.B.M. contest prizes and awards.

F.I.S.M. Eligibility

To participate in the F.I.S.M. North American Championships, a contestant must be:

- A member of an eligible **North American F.I.S.M. member organization** (e.g. I.B.M., S.A.M., A.M.A., etc)

And

- a citizen of the United States or Canada; **or**
- a permanent resident of the United States or Canada; **or**
- a nonimmigrant visa holder who has resided in the United States or Canada for **at least 12 months**

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6. Act Requirements

Each contestant must present a **complete act**, rather than a single trick.

The act must be more than 5 minutes and less than 10 minutes in length.

Contestants should take audience reactions and applause into consideration when determining the running time of their act.

The act performed in Las Vegas must be substantially the same act submitted during the application process. Significant changes require prior approval from the contest organizers.

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7. Setup and Breakdown

Each contestant will have a maximum of:

2 minutes for setup
2 minutes for breakdown

Experienced stage crew will be available to assist, but **the contestant remains responsible for setting up and clearing the stage**.

Each contestant will begin with a clear stage and must leave the stage ready for the next performer.

Any props, cards, paper or other items dropped or left onstage must be removed by the contestant during the allotted breakdown time.

If your act involves dropping or scattering a significant number of items, you must provide and use an appropriate **drop cloth**.

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8. Fire Effects

All fire effects require prior written approval from the contest organizers.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- open flames
- candles
- matches
- sparks
- flash or flame effects
- any other effect involving fire or combustion

All performances must comply with the requirements of the venue and local fire authorities.

We recommend that you avoid fire effects if possible as we do not know what rules will apply for the world championships in South Korea.

Unauthorized use of fire effects will result in disqualification.

If your act includes any fire effect, contact the contest organizers as early as possible.

9. Confetti, Glitter and Similar Materials

Any use of confetti requires prior written approval from the contest organizers.

Small quantities may be permitted. Large quantities may not be permitted.

Contestants using approved confetti are responsible for completely clearing it from the stage within their allotted breakdown time.

Glitter and Mylar confetti are strictly prohibited.

If you intend to use confetti, contact the contest organizers as early as possible.

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10. Smoke and Atmospheric Effects

All smoke or atmospheric effects require prior written approval from the contest organizers.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- smoke machines
- fog machines
- vaporizers
- dry ice
- theatrical haze
- any effect that produces or resembles smoke or fog

If your act includes any such effect, contact the contest organizers as early as possible.

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11. F.I.S.M. Competition Rules

Contestants participating in the F.I.S.M. North American Championships are also subject to applicable F.I.S.M. rules. The current rules and regulations for F.I.S.M. contests are on the F.I.S.M. website www.FISM.org

Complete Act

A contestant must present a complete act, rather than a single trick, lasting **at least 5 minutes and no more than 10 minutes**.

Originality

A contestant presenting an act that is clearly a copy of another act, or that copies a significant or distinctive portion of another performance, will not be permitted to compete.

Timing

Timing begins when the contestant enters the performance area or when the music for the act begins, **whichever occurs first**.

Timing ends when the magic, music and spoken presentation have concluded.

A **yellow warning light** will be illuminated after 9 minutes.

At **10 minutes**, a red light will be illuminated. Exceeding the maximum permitted time will result in disqualification.

Performance Rights and Licenses

Contestants are responsible for ensuring that they have the legal right to perform their act.

Contestants are also responsible for obtaining any required permissions, licenses or other rights relating to music, recordings, intellectual property or other protected material used in their performance.

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12. Judging Criteria

The I.B.M. jury will evaluate each act using the following official I.B.M. score sheet

Link to download close-up contest judging sheet

Link to download stage contest judging sheet

The F.I.S.M. jury will evaluate performances using the applicable F.I.S.M. judging criteria, including:

- **Technical Skill / Handling**
- **Showmanship / Presentation**
- **Entertainment Value**
- **Artistic Impression / Routine**
- **Originality**
- **Magic Atmosphere**

To see the full F.I.S.M. contest rules go to www.FISM.org

The decision of the judges is final.

Questions and Special Requirements

If your act includes fire, smoke, confetti, unusual staging, special technical requirements or anything else that may require advance approval, **contact the contest organizers as early as possible**. Do not wait until the convention to request approval.