

MICHIGAN MAGIC DAY 2010

Performance Contest Rules and Guidelines

Contest Categories

- Senior Division Stage
- Junior Division Stage
- Senior Division Close-up
- Junior Division Close-up

The Senior competitions are for persons who are 18 years of age or older as of the first day of the competition.

The Junior competitions are for persons who are younger than 18 years of age on the first day of the competition.

Qualifying to Compete

- All persons performing in a competition act must be registered for Michigan Magic Day.
- An act cannot enter the competition if they are a paid performer at Michigan Magic Day.
- All material presented must be appropriate for family audiences.
- The Contest Chairperson may limit the number of contestants in any contest category based on time limitations for the overall contest.

Time Limits

There is a limit on the amount of time that a contestant can perform. The limit is **ten minutes for Senior Division stage acts and eight minutes for Junior Division stage acts. The limit for both Senior Division and Junior Division close-up acts is five minutes.**

For stage acts, time begins when the performer's name is announced to the audience. For close-up acts, time begins when the performer begins their presentation.

In addition to the ten minute limit (Senior Division) or eight minute limit (Junior Division) on performance time, each act will be limited to a combined total of three minutes of on-stage set-up time prior to performing and on-stage clear-out time after performing. The three minute limit can be used for either on-stage set-up, or on-stage clear-out, or a combination of both, so long as the total set-up and clearout time does not exceed three minutes.

Additional off-stage set-up and clear-out time (in the wings) is limited only by venue availability.

Typically, an hour of set-up time before the contest performance is available, although backstage space may be limited.

Exceeding the performance time limit of ten minutes (Senior Division), or eight minutes (Junior Division), or the overall act limit of thirteen minutes (Senior Division) or eleven minutes (Junior Division), will result in a scoring penalty as follows:

- Loss of one (1) point from the overall score for each 15 seconds overtime or portion thereof.
- Maximum four (4) point deduction for up to sixty (60) seconds overtime.
- Over sixty (60) seconds overtime will result in disqualification.

Pre-Contest Meeting and Walk-Through

All performers must attend the pre-contest meeting. Stage performers must also participate in a show walk-through to establish stage entrances, exits, and technical cues. The meeting is also to review the contest rules, scoring system, and to answer questions.

The contest meeting date, time, and location will be published in the Michigan Magic Day schedule, but in the event that it is not, it is the responsibility of each contestant to obtain the contest meeting date, time, and location, and to be present.

Persons not attending the pre-contest meeting may be disqualified.

What Performers Need to Bring to the Contest

Bring EVERYTHING that you need to perform your act!

Stage – Contestants are responsible for bringing all equipment necessary to perform their act, including all props and tables.

Close-up – Contestants will be provided with a table and two chairs.

Pyrotechnic Devices

Due to insurance and safety requirements, **no pyrotechnic devices are allowed.** This includes flash paper, flash pots, smoke pots, and sparklers. Any devices and effects not already mentioned that would fall in this category must be approved by the Michigan Magic Day Contest Chairperson. Such approval may be withheld for any concern about safety or potential property damage.

Confetti, Streamers, Etc.

Due to the time constraints used during the competition, the use of confetti, whether paper, or mylar is prohibited. The use of glitter is also prohibited. Performers are responsible for cleaning-up all items that are used during their performance.

This includes items they produce, spill, or otherwise use, both on-stage and backstage.

Music

Stage – Contestants are required to bring a copy of their music on an audio CD to the walk-through. If there are any sound cues, other than to begin playing the music at the beginning of the act, such cues must be provided to the Michigan Magic Day Contest Chairperson during the pre-contest meeting and walk-through.

Please label your CD with your full name, and indicate which “track” should be played. Retrieval of CDs after the contest show is the responsibility of each Contestant. Please do not attempt to retrieve your CD during the show, as doing so may interfere with the cueing of the other contestant’s acts.

Close-up – If music is to be played for a close-up performance, the Contestant must play it on an amplified playback device, such as a “boom box”, that is brought to the performance table by the performer or someone assisting them.

Microphones

Stage – Contestants will have a choice of using either a stand-up microphone, a handheld microphone, or a lavalier microphone, which will be provided for use during their act only.

Close-up – No microphones are provided.

Lighting

Stage – Limited stage lighting will be provided. The ability to achieve a total “blackout” cannot be guaranteed, although a general blackout effect is generally achievable. Lighting cues must be reviewed with the Michigan Magic Day Contest Chairperson during the walk-through. If multiple lighting cues are desired, it is recommended that a lighting cue sheet be prepared in advance and provided to the Contest Chairperson.

Close-up – No special lighting will be provided for the close-up performance.

Scoring

Acts are scored on a scale of 1 to 10 points in five categories as follows:

- Appearance
- Showmanship
- Technique/Skill
- Originality
- Overall Entertainment Value

Fifty (50) points is the maximum score available from an individual judge.

Penalties for exceeding time limits will be deducted from each judge’s score sheet.

Three judges will evaluate all performers in each category.

Entry Fees

Entry fee will be \$10 for each contest entered.

Prizes

Monetary prizes will be awarded to those who place as one of the top three acts in each category.

Prize schedule is as follows:

Senior Division – Stage Magic and Close-Up Magic

First Place - \$75

Second Place - \$50

Junior Division – Stage Magic and Close-Up Magic

First Place - \$75

Second Place - \$50

Total Prize Purse - \$500

Note: If there are not five entrees in any one given division contest, such as junior division stage magic, that division contest will be eliminated. If there are not enough contestants for any two division contests, then the competition will be eliminated altogether. The competition will be limited to the first seven entrees in any one division.