



**FISM™**  
**EUROPE**

## **FISM European Championships of Magic 2017 Contest Rules and Procedures**

**12<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

### **1. ABOUT THE PARTICIPATION AND THE CONTESTANTS**

- a) FISM European Championships of Magic are open to any magician, aged 16 years or older, who has reached FISM level, who is a member of a FISM European Member Society where he/she is living and after having received the written authorization of the President of the Society of which he or she is a member
- b) Excluded from participation are artists who are booked by the organizing committee to perform or lecture at that convention.
- c) A contestant must be a paid registrant of the Convention, during which the contest is held.
- d) The EEB (Priska Walther) must have received the duly signed registration form for the contest, including the appropriate authorization, the necessary agreement, the convention fee before the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2016.
- e) The number of contestants is limited to 90 applicants, being around 60 for the stage and around 30 for the close-up competition.
- f) By participating in the contest, a contestant agrees to all the decisions of the judges, which are not subject to appeal.
- g) A prize-winning contestant, when asked by the organizing committee, has to perform his or her act again at a show of the Convention, without any fee.

### **2. ABOUT THE JURY**

- a) To determine all prizes and other awards (see Article 5), a stage jury of 7 members and a close-up jury of 5 or 7 members are composed; in each jury one member will be an appointed chairman.
- b) Both juries will be presided over by a non-judging president, appointed by the EEB. (European Executive Board)

- c) All Jury members are appointed by the EEB. These appointments should be based on the qualifications of the candidates in both the art of Magic and that of judging magic performances. There should be a diversity of age and cultural background and all judges should be able to communicate in English. The EEB should also acknowledge continuity in FISM juries. Preferably there will be only one judge for any one country.
- d) Judges will be exempted from paying a convention registration fee, and will get free refreshments and meals during their judging time.
- e) The Chairmen of the juries will send a report of the contest results, with appropriate remarks and observations, to the EEB and a copy to the Presidium within one month of the closing of the convention.

### 3. ABOUT THE CATEGORIES

- a) The contest performances are open in the following categories:

<b>Stage performances</b>	<b>Close-up performances</b>
Manipulation General magic Stage illusions Mental magic Comedy magic	Card magic Micro magic Parlour magic  Additional: Invention

- b) If the judges are of the shared opinion that the act of a contestant should have been entered in another category, they are entitled to make such a change.

### 4. ABOUT THE CONTESTANTS AND THE CONTEST PERFORMANCE

- a) A contestant is responsible for his own performance. He undertakes to FISM that he has secured the necessary rights to perform this full and complete contest performance, (also known as his 'act').
- b) The contestant's undertaking includes the right to perform the act in question and encompasses the contestant securing all ancillary rights and licences whether music or otherwise from all legally required third parties, if applicable.
- c) The contestant will specifically undertake to FISM that he is entitled to exploit and grant solely licence of his act and that his act does not infringe the rights of any third party.
- d) In the event that the contestant is in breach of any of the aforementioned undertakings, he has to accept all the consequences and liabilities. If the contestant is in breach of the regulations concerning the Music Rights of his act, if necessary the Organizing Committee has, after having communicated with the contestant, the exclusive right to either obtain the necessary performance and/or music rights at the expense of the contestant or to substitute the music in question.

- e) Performances, mainly depending on a pre-arrangement between the contestant and a volunteer or assistant in the know, are not considered **magic** performances. The contest, being a contest on the performance of **magic**, the Jury can decide to disqualify the contestant. In case of doubt the competitor will be asked to explain the method used and, if necessary, to repeat the effect in front of the judging panel.
- f) A contestant who has been rewarded a Grand Prix in a FISM WCM is not allowed to compete with essentially the same act.
- g) A contestant must present a complete act (not a single trick) of at least five minutes and not more than ten minutes.
- h) A contestant who presents an act that is obviously a copy of the act, or a significant or typical part of it, of another performer will be disqualified.
- i) A contestant can only present one act in one category in Stage magic and one act in one category in Close-up magic
- j) A contestant must be ready to perform his act at least ten minutes before the scheduled time. The jury may disqualify a contestant who is not ready by this ten-minute notice.
- k) An act begins when the contestant enters the stage or when the music of the act starts, whichever comes first.
- l) At the front of the stage will be two electric lamps, one yellow and one red. After nine minutes of a performance, the yellow lamp will be switched on. After the tenth minute, the red lamp will be switched on, showing the contestant that he or she is over time and therefore disqualified. A contestant will also be disqualified in case of a flashing red lamp (see Article 7d)
- m) In introducing a contestant, the Master of Ceremonies of the competition will refrain from any comment on the performer or the act, restricting the announcement to the name of the contestant, the category of performance, the country and society and the name(s) of the President(s) authorizing this participation in the contest.

## 5. ABOUT INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND BROADCASTING RIGHTS

- a) By no later than four (4) weeks prior to the commencement of the competition, the contestant will provide the Organizing Committee with a list of all music titles to be used in his act; including the title's name, composer, adapter, recording artist, the time of the soundtrack and the name of the label.
- b) A contestant's performance or act may be recorded and/or videotaped by or on behalf of FISM and broadcast and transmitted to monitors inside and outside the performance theatre.
- c) The contestant, as a right of competition, authorizes and allows FISM without limitation to time and/or place to use his image and/or voice and to edit, and re-assemble a contestant's recorded act as FISM deems appropriate.
- d) The contestant, as a right of competition, further authorizes FISM to reproduce, adapt, sell and market his performance.  
FISM in consideration of same agrees to pay the contestant a one-time contractual compensation, calculated per second of contestant's performance in a (video) programme to be marketed or as a fixed amount. The amount of the compensation will be set by the Presidium of the FISM. This amount can only be contested by the General Assembly of the European societies of FISM and requires the prior written approval of three (3) separate delegates who must each be from different countries.  
After having consulted the Presidium of the FISM, the matter will be decided by the General Assembly of the European societies of FISM who's decision will be final and not subject to further challenge or appeal.

## 6. ABOUT PRIZES AND AWARDS

### a) Prizes

In each category three prizes can be awarded by the jury: a first, a second and a third prize. There will be a Grand Prix Winner in stage and close up (competitor with the highest marks).

### b) Special Contest Award

For both stage performances and close-up performances each jury can award a “Most Original Act” award.

### c) Other awards

No other prize, award, distinction or gift can be given without the approval of the EEB and the President of the jury. This includes any prize or award given on behalf of a private company. Only contestants having received a prize or a (special) contest award, are eligible for an additional prize or award beyond those mentioned in the preceding paragraphs of this Article.

### d) 1st Prize and 2nd prize winners have a non transferable guaranteed participation in the next World Championships of Magic.

## 7. ABOUT THE JUDGING PROCESS

a) The jury will judge all the contestants' performances during the contest in order to determine who's eligible for the prizes and awards as mentioned in Article 5, when appropriate.

b) A member of the jury shall give a fair judgement on the performance of every contestant, without prejudice, with an equal level of critical standards in regard to the following six aspects:

- Technical Skill / Handling.
- Showmanship / Presentation
- Entertainment value
- Artistic Impression / “Routining”
- Originality
- Magic Atmosphere

c) Jury members use the enclosed official judging form. Each judge will give a total score of up to 100 points to each contestant. After each contest performance, the part of the judging form below the dotted line will be collected by a member of the special staff as mentioned in Article 9a. Adding the scores of all judges and dividing the total by the number of judges, the final score will then be calculated.

d) Judges will each have access to a switch to activate the red lamp on the performing platform. If, after the first three minutes of an act, a judge is of the opinion that the performance is below the FISM level, he can press his button. If more than 70% of the judges have pressed their red button, the system activates the red lamp which then starts flashing, meaning the contestant is disqualified.

e) At the conclusion of the competition, having seen the performances of all the contestants, the individual judges may reconsider their judgments and, with the approval of the President of the jury, will be given the opportunity to change some of their scores. These changes will be given to the special staff members who will recalculate the final scores.

f) After all necessary calculations are complete, the list of final scores will be handed to the President of the jury, who will assemble all the judges in a meeting to determine who qualifies for the different prizes.

g) The prizes will be awarded to the highest scores in each category. To be awarded a first prize, a contestant must have a final score of at least 80 points. The final score must be at least 70 points for a second prize and at least 60 points for a third prize.

h) A contestant with a final score lower than 50 points is considered below FISM level and will be disqualified.

i) If no contestant has the required points for a given prize in a given category, that prize will not be awarded.

j) The list of prizes and any other awards, will be kept secret until the official proclamation and presentation of the trophies to the winners. The declaration of the awards will be made in reverse order, beginning with the special contest awards, then the lowest prize and ending with the first prize.

## **8. ABOUT TITLES**

A first-prize winner is entitled to use the title of "European Champion" along with the category plus the year of its acquisition (e.g., "European Champion Stage Illusions 2017" or "European Champion Card Magic 2017").

## **9. ABOUT THE ADMINISTRATION**

a) The EEB, will appoint a jury staff officer for the contests and a special staff who will assure a smooth-running judging process. Among other responsibilities, the jury staff shall collect the forms, do the necessary calculations, and take care of the well-being of the judges. The jury staff will keep all the scores strictly secret, revealing them to no one except for the jury.

b) The EEB and the organizer will provide the necessary official judging forms, clipboards as well as diplomas.

c) The design of the FISM ECM trophies and/or cups for the different prizes and awards should be approved by the EEB.

d) The EEB will send the contest rules and procedures to the judges no less than four weeks before the start of the Convention.