



**FISM**  
**EUROPE**

## **FISM European Championship of Magic 2024 Contest Rules and Procedures**

**September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

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

- a) FISM European Championship of Magic are open to any magician who has reached FISM level, who is a member of a FISM European Member Society where he/she is living (officially registered at least one year before the dates of the Championship) and after having received the written authorization of the President of the Society of which he or she is a member. Any magician who has reached the FISM Level and is living in a European country where there is no FISM Member Society, could apply to compete to FISM ECM after having received the written authorization of the Presidents of FISM Europe Member Societies from three different countries. The guaranteeing Society must be up to date with payment of the fees assigned by the EEB in accordance with the statutes of the FISM and FISM Europe.
- b) Excluded from participation are artists who are booked or invited 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 must have received the duly signed registration form for the contest, including the appropriate authorization, the necessary agreement, the convention fee before March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- e) The contestant will pay the competition fee of € 60, after his participation in the contest is confirmed.
- f) Signing and sending the request to compete, candidate implicitly accepts the transfer of all data to be stored and processed for the exclusive use of FISM, following the European laws of data protection, before, during and after the competition.
- g) The number of contestants is limited to around 90 applicants, being around 60 for the stage and around 30 for the close-up competition.
- h) By participating in the contest, a contestant agrees to all the decisions of the judges, which are not subject to appeal.

- i) A prize-winning contestant, when asked by the organizing committee, must perform his or her act again at a show of the Convention, without any fee. The non-appearance to the gala that has been cited, or not being in the rehearsal and performance times scheduled by the technical and artistic director or presenting in an obvious physical condition not appropriate to be able to successfully face his (her) performance, may be cause for loss of the prize if the jury considers it so.

## 2. ABOUT THE JURY

- a) To determine all prizes and other awards (see Article 6), a stage jury of 7 members and a close-up jury of 5 or 7 members are composed; in each jury panel 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 selecting 5/7 of the jury members from the list of FISM Official judges. 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 - Most Original act	

- 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, if it is in the best interest of a contestant.

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

- a) A contestant is responsible for his own performance. He undertakes to FISM Europe 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 licenses whether music or otherwise from all legally required third parties, if applicable.
- c) The contestant will specifically undertake to FISM Europe that he is entitled to exploit and grant solely license of his act and that his act does not infringe the rights of any third party.
- d) If 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 or ECM 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. However, in the category "Mental Magic" an act within these time limits, consisting of one effect, is acceptable.
- 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 a signal (monitor or lamp) easy visible for Jury and competitor. After nine minutes of a performance, a yellow signal will be switch on. After the tenth minute, a red signal 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 signal (see Article 7d)
- m) When 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 Europe and broadcast and transmitted to monitors inside and outside the performance theatre.
- c) The contestant, as a right of competition, authorizes and allows FISM Europe without limitation to time and place to use his image (photo/still image and moving image/video shooting) and voice and to edit, and re-assemble a contestant's recorded act as FISM Europe deems appropriate.
- d) The contestant, as a right of competition, further authorizes FISM Europe to reproduce, adapt, sell, and market his performance.
- e) FISM Europe 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 EEB of the FISM Europe. This amount can only be contested by the General Assembly of the European societies of FISM Europe and requires the prior written approval of three (3) separate delegates who must each be from different countries.
- f) After having consulted the EEB of the FISM Europe, the matter will be decided by the General Assembly of the European societies of FISM Europe 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.
- b) Jury can award a Grand Prix for Stage and Close-up according to FISM WCM rules without a second phase of Competition.
- c) Special Contest Award: For both stage performances and close-up performances each jury can award a "Most Original Act" award. The Jury can issue one or more awards for an invention both in stage and close-up competitions. The inventions must be presented as part of an act in one of the categories and the invention must be claimed by the contestant when registering for the competition. There is no hierarchy for awards for invention. The jury, who will determine the invention to be at least a new effect or a new method or technique, will decide on these awards. To be considered for this award, the competitors must send a description of the invention they claim, together with the method used. This information will be

treated as strictly confidential and must be sent directly to the jury president, who will forward it to the members of the concerned jury panel. It should be received no later than four weeks before the start of the convention.

- d) 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.
- e) 1<sup>st</sup> Prize ,2<sup>nd</sup> prize and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize winners have a non-transferable guaranteed participation in the next World Championship of Magic.

## 7. ABOUT THE JUDGING PROCESS

- a) The jury will judge all the contestants' performances during the contest to determine who's eligible for the prizes and awards as mentioned in Article 6, 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 regarding 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 (sheets or digital). Each judge will give a total score of up to 100 points to each contestant. After each contest performance, the judge will close his judging procedure giving the part of the sheet of judging form below the dotted line to a member of the Jury staff as mentioned in Article 9a or selecting/clicking on CLOSE VOTE button on Digital System. 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 signal on the performing platform. If, after the first three minutes of an act, a judge is of the opinion that the performance is substantially 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 signal which then starts flashing, meaning the contestant is disqualified. In case of maltreatment of persons or animals or when the performer is endangering the assistants or the audience, a jury member shall press the button immediately, without any time restraints. In case of serious maltreatment, the chairperson and/or jury president must have the possibility to also close the curtain and thus end the performance.
- 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) 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 2024" or "European Champion Card Magic 2024").
- b) The holders of the two Grand Prix awards are entitled to precede their title of "European Champion" by "FISM Europe Grand Prix Winner" (e.g., "FISM Europe Grand Prix Winner and European Champion Manipulation 2024" or "FISM Europe Grand Prix Winner and European Champion Card Magic 2024")

## **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, diplomas as well as a private meeting room appropriated and prepared to deliberate along the competition sessions.
- 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.