



Election Mister BEAR Belgium

Contest rules (Version of 1 May 2022)

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1. General and definition

1.1 General

The Mister Bear Belgium election is a non-profit event. The election is organized in Brussels by the "BELGIUM BEARPRIDE" association. The aim of this association is Bear visibility, but also many militant commitments related to the LGBT+ community and is represented in particular at Rainbow House Brussels.

For the occasion of the Belgium bear pride (or bear week), one of its goals is to elect a candidate representing the "bear community".

The winner of the "mister bear Belgium" election will be the title holder for one year. During this period, he will represent the Belgian bear community.

1.2 Definitions

The bear community is a subdivision of the gay community. We hear of "Bears" - pronounce: [bairz] and non [birz] - ("ours" in French), gay and bisexual men with facial and body hair more or less provided and visible.

Some bears are also wrapped or big; it's not necessarily a differentiation feature.

Bears can also be distinguished into different subgroups, such as:

- Musclebears or muscular bears,
- "Chubbybears" or people who identify themselves from being big till obese,
- The "daddybears" where older bears with sub-categories "polaraddies" or "silverdaddies" appreciated for their white pilosities;
- Other categories of the bear scene, the "cubs" (literally boys), mainly young men who already have the assets to become future bears,
- Bear lovers, who are called "chasers" (literally hunters). These men are often thin and show a preference for bears.

The BELGIUM BEARPRIDE association specifically advocates going beyond simple definitions of the physical aspects, arguing that belonging to the bear community is also a state of mind advocating values such as inclusiveness, respect for difference and tolerance and that the only bodily features should not be a barrier.

1.3 - Generalities of the conduct of the election :

On Friday, September 23 rd, the candidates will be questioned individually by the jury.

On Saturday, September 24 th, candidates will present themselves on the scene of the event "election Mr Bear Belgium" and will participate in the staging. They will have to convince the public and the jury during this official evening with one or more personal and collective shows as well as a short personal presentation and the project they wish to defend during their term.

A list of the complete activities will be given to the candidates and will be visible on the website www.belgiumbearpride.be.

On Sunday 25 th , the winner and the other contestants will be present at all the events organized by the Belgium bear Pride.

2. The candidates

The election is reserved for adult men of Belgian nationality or officially resident in Belgium.

They must be part of the gay bear community and commit to being available to promote the bear community.

They must necessarily speak at least one of the official languages of Belgium (French, Flemish or German) and must have a good speaking in English. However, it is possible for the committee to depart from this rule. For example the candidate has his address outside of Belgium but agrees to be present a number of weekends in Brussels (Belgium) per year.

In this case the application will be evaluated by the committee and in the favorable case validated by a meeting minutes.

3. Registration

Each contestant must register by completing the form available on the website.

He will also have to send a (some) personal photo(s) that Belgium bear Pride will be able to use for the publications on its website or the social media.

The registration form must be sent by e-mail before 15 August 2022.

Applications after this date may be refused.

Contact: info@belgiumbearpride.be

4. Costs of participation

The participation on the contest is free.

Specific costs related to the activities are at the candidates' own expense.

A guarantee of 25 euros is required for registration; this guarantee will be refunded, regardless of the candidate's result during the election.

If the candidate does not stand for election, the guarantee will be considered lost and non-refundable. The guarantee must be paid on the account of the BELGIUM BEARPRIDE ASSOCIATION

Registration is official only after the guarantee has been received

BELGIUM BEARPRIDE

IBAN : BE88 7360 4872 0841

BIC: KREDBEBB

5. Individual interviews

During the election, contestants will take part in an individual interview with the jury.

They will be allowed to speak in their mother tongue. Being multilingual is a plus.

On this occasion, the candidate will present the project that is close to his heart and that he wishes to defend throughout his term.

This interview will count for a quarter of the points that will be awarded for the election

This interview should take place on Friday, September 23 th

6. Presentation on stage - show during the election on Saturday :

The contestants will be presented on stage at the Mr Bear Belgium election official party.

The goal is to create a cohesion between the candidates and to present a show that must actively animate the evening.

It will not be a difficult exercise, and everyone can participate; You will be asked to wear clothes that match the theme of the evening.

The place (s) and the dates of the training will be communicated once the registration is closed. A rehearsal in the Bodega room will take place on Saturday September 24 th from 5pm to 7pm.

7. Jury

The judges of this competition are key figures of the bear and gay scene, gathered by the board of the Belgium Bear Pride association.

8. Counting points

The score of each candidate will be established on 100 points

Individual interview - The jury will give a mark to each candidate, relating to the individual interview; up to 40 points can be awarded by the jury to each candidate;

Show / staging - up to 30 points can be awarded by the jury for the performance (s) performed on stage to which will be added up to 50 points awarded by the votes of the public (number of votes expressed for each candidate divided by total number of votes);

In case of equality of points, the jury will discuss to arbitrate the attribution of the title to the winner.

- 40 points of the jury
- 30 points of the public attending the election physically
- 30 points online voting (website / text / ..)

9. Litigation

If the result of the election is subject to litigation, a letter must be sent by email to the organization at contact@belgiumbearpride.be. The organization will investigate and formulate a point of view on the legitimacy of the conduct of the election if necessary.

10. Obligations of the winner:

10.1 - Sash

The winner is asked to wear his title and scarf decently during his various activities and performances. It is not appropriate to wear the scarf in specific places like inside a backroom, on erotic or pornographic pictures, etc. In case of doubt, it will always be appropriate for the wearer of the scarf to seek the advice of a member of the board of the Belgium Bear Pride association

In case of loss or damage to the official scarf, the winner will be obliged to replace it at his own expense. This scarf will be passed on to the winner of the following year.

10.2 - partners

The winner must not promote, communicate or wear clothes with logos of bars / clubs / parties and partners other than those of the BELGIUM BEARPRIDE association or for which Belgium Bear-pride association has granted an explicit written authorization.

10.3 - presence

The winner will represent the bears of Belgium at events inside and outside the country.

When he attends an event, he will wear his scarf in a visible way so that people know about Mr. Bear Belgium's presence.

He will have to make an appearance on most major gay events and especially in bear events.

His presence, wearing the scarf mr bear Belgium, is mandatory on:

- Belgian Pride in May 2023 and Antwerp Pride in August 2023.
- The election of Mr Bear Belgium in October 2023 for the handover of the sash.

He will attend at

- The Bear Pride in Cologne november 2023.
- Amsterdam Bear Pride 2023
- Mr bear Belgium will be able to attend any other election such as Mr Bear Europe or any other election to which the association will decide to register its candidate after having recognized the electing body as legitimate. Any participation as a candidate or representative of Belgium Bear Pride or Mister Bear is strictly forbidden without explicit written authorization from the association board.
- Fierté Ours in Paris 2023
- Leatherpride Antwerp - election of Mister Leather Belgium in 2023.

11. Media and communication

The contestants and the winner of the election allow the association Belgium Bear pride to use :

- The photos, texts, interview and videos they sent to him,
- Photos, texts, interviews and videos made during the Belgium Bear Pride to which they have registered
- Photos, texts, interviews and videos made during the events organized by Belgium Bear Pride to which they will have taken part
- Photos, texts, interviews and videos made during the events during which the candidates and the winner of the election will have taken part in the invitation of Belgium Bear Pride for the illustration of its publications, its website or the accounts it has on social networks.

This authorization may be sent by the non-profit association Belgium Bear Pride to external media who wish to report the activities of the Belgium Bear Pride association and / or Mr Bear Belgium.

12. Prizes to win

Prizes are offered by sponsors.

A list will be published on the website www.belgiumbearpride.be

13. Sponsorship rights

The use of the reference to Belgium Bear Pride and the election or the title of Mr Bear Belgium are exclusively reserved for the various partners and sponsors of the Belgium Bear Pride association.

Any other reference or use of the name of the association or the title Mr Bear Belgium - in Belgium or abroad, by a private company, public or an association - must go through a written authorization from the board of the Belgium Bear Pride association, which reserves the right to grant or refuse its use without having to justify its decision.

The title Mr Bear Belgium or the participation in the election of Mr bear Belgium may not allow the promotion of a commercial activity, except with the express written consent of the association board.

14. Behavior

The contestants for the election, because they undertake to represent their community, have, as such, a duty of exemplarity.

There can only be one winner in this election. Each contestant is asked to behave with fair play and to communicate positively about the contest, regardless of the outcome.

We want those who have not been elected to be "good losers" and with a heart for this community.

Each of the candidates and the winner of the election will be asked to behave appropriately and wear appropriate clothing as part of the activities of the Belgium Bear Pride association or when they will represent the title of Mr Bear Belgium.

In the context of the election and activities related to the title of Mr bear Belgium, organized or not by the association Belgium Bear Pride, it is strictly forbidden to wear political, trade union, religious or discriminatory symbols towards some communities or whatever groups.

If the winner wishes to give up his title prematurely, he must also return all the prizes received by the organization.

15. Compliance with the rules

In case of non-compliance with the rules, the organization may disqualify the candidate or withdraw the title of Mr Bear Belgium.

The BELGIUM BEARPRIDE association is in charge of analyzing and judging the nonconformity of this regulation.

16. Change of rules

The organization may make the necessary changes to these rules at any time.

Contestants and the winner of the election will be notified by email.

17. The comitee of « Belgium Bearpride»

asbl Belgium Bearpride - Rue Marché au Charbon, 42 - 1000 Bruxelles

President : Dimitri De Vreeze

18. Details

- All the dates communicated in these regulations are indicative. They will be confirmed and notified to the contestants.
- The references to the association are indifferently either to "Belgium Bear Pride" or "Belgium Bearpride" or "the association"; these references may be translated into other languages, in particular French or Flemish, without the present regulation being applied. The same goes for the title of Mr Bear Belgium.

I have read the present bylaw and approve it.

I agree to publish and distribute the photos, texts and other visual material made during the various events of the organization, by the association, in the press and for the website and social media of the organization as advertising for current or future events.

Done on At

Name:

First Name:

Signature: