Last modified: July 7, 2022

**IBM RING 1**

**General Rules for Stage and Close-Up Contest**

1) To enter an IBM Ring 1 contest, you must notify the contest chairman by a date chosen by the contest chairman and published to the I.B.M. Ring 1 membership.

2) If you should win the contest, you will chair or emcee the contest (“Contest Chair”) for the following year per the rules set forth below unless the board, with a majority vote, selects a different Contest Chair.  
  
3) Contests will have two contest categories, (i) Beginner to Intermediate and (ii) Advanced. Within each category, there can be a Youth division (under 17 years) and Senior division (17 years of age or older), if warranted. Division is determined by the contestant's age on the day of the competition. Categories and divisions may be combined at the discretion of the Contest Chair.  
 Definitions of each category are as follows:

Beginner – Intermediate Category: A person who has not placed 1st in any stage or close-up magic contest (respective to the contest being entered), does not earn a living, full-time as a magician, and does not lecture or teach magic regularly.  
  
Advanced Category: A person who has placed 1st in any stage or close-up magic contest (respective to the contest being entered); or is a professional magician, earning a living through magic, full-time; or lectures on or teaches magic; or placed 1st in the Beginners to Intermediate Group contest (respective to the contest being entered). A Beginner to Intermediate contestant may opt to compete in the Advanced category.

4) The total number of contestants of both categories, may not exceed 20.  
  
5) The contest must have five (5) or more entries in order to award 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes. If there are four (4) entries, 1st and 2nd prizes will be awarded. If there are three (3) entries, only 1st place will be awarded. If there are fewer than three entries, a certificate of participation will be awarded.  
  
6) Contestants will be accepted on a first come, first-served basis, based on the date and time the application is received. A waitlist will be maintained.  
  
7) Contestants must appear at the set-up location at the time designated by the Contest Chair. Late arrivals may be disqualified.  
  
8) All contestants are responsible for placement and removal of all their own equipment. A table and chairs will be provided. Contestants may optionally bring and use a tablecloth draped over the table.

9) Performance in ALL contests must be between 8 minutes and 10 minutes in length. Points will be deducted for times that are under 8 minutes or over 10 minutes. One point will be deducted for every 30 seconds over 10 minutes or under 8 minutes.

10) All contestants must be members in good standing in the International Brotherhood of Magicians (I.B.M.) and I.B.M. Ring 1.  
  
11) Contestants may be disqualified by individual judges for using “blue” material at this family-friendly event.

12) The Contest Chair may optionally appoint a “Preapproval Board” that consists of three people, including the Contest Chair himself/herself. The Preapproval Board should offer all contestants the opportunity to have their routine reviewed to ensure that the routine meets the definition of close-up magic for close-up contests, or stage magic for stage contests. The Preapproval Board may set a deadline for contestants to submit their routines for review. If the Preapproval Board approves the routine and the contestant does not deviate from what was approved, judges may not disqualify the contestant. Contestants who do not receive preapproval from the Preapproval Board may be disqualified by individual judges for not performing the appropriate type of magic (close-up magic for close-up contests, or stage magic for stage contests).

13) For clarity, a judge may provide non-zero scores and simultaneously disqualify a contestant. Disqualification means receiving zero points from that specific judge for the purposes of scoring when determining winners. For clarity, if two judges do not disqualify the contestant and one judge disqualifies the contestant, the contestant receives points from two judges and zero points from one judge for the purposes of scoring when determining winners.

14) The Preapproval Board may not disclose contestants’ routines to anyone who is not a member of the Preapproval Board.

15) The Contest Chair will determine the order of the performance. Detailed questions, comments, or considerations should be directed to the Contest Chair.  
  
16) Since the contest is meant to be a learning experience, judge’s comments and criticisms should be noted on the contest judging form. This is done strictly for the benefit of the contestant. Summaries will NOT be mailed to contestants.  
  
17) Each judge’s decision of his/her scores will be considered final.  
  
18) The announcement of the winners for all contests will take place the evening of the competition, if the scoring is completed that evening. If the scoring is not completed that evening, the Contest Chair will announce when the winner will be announced.  
  
19) I.B.M. Ring 1 will have the right to use the likeness of contestants for publicity purposes of promoting the I. B. M. or I.B.M. Ring 1.

20) Fire in contestants’ routines is not allowed for safety and insurance reasons.

21) No fanfare is allowed when introducing or announcing contestants before or after their performance. Each introduction should simply be the contestant’s name.

22) There will be a Timer who is responsible for timing each performer. A minimum of 8 minutes and a maximum of 10 minutes is acceptable. Penalties of 1 point for each 30 seconds over or under the time allowed. The emcee will ask if the performer is ready. Once the performer acknowledges he/she is ready, the emcee will introduce the performer with the performer’s name. The timer will begin after the last name is stated. When it is clear that the performance has ended (such as if the performer says, “Thank you.  I hope you enjoyed my act.” or if the performer states that the act is over), the timer will end.  
  
23) The first-place winner of the Beginner - Intermediate category may not compete in the Beginner - Intermediate category but may compete in the Advanced category in future I.B.M. Ring 1 contests. The first-place winner of the Advanced category may not compete in the next I.B.M. Ring 1 contest of the same type (e.g., close-up contest, stand-up contest, stage contest) but may compete in the Advanced category of subsequent I.B.M. Ring 1 contests of the same type. However, anyone may perform an act at the contest as a non-contestant (not qualified to win an award) and have his/her performance evaluated by the judges if time permits. This option is at the discretion of the Contest Chair.

24) The Contest Chair, judges, Preapproval Board members, Contest Scorer, and Timer are ineligible to compete.

25) Judging criteria, as outlined on the Judging Forms, will be applicable to both stage and close-up contests.   
  
26) The minimum number of judges required to constitute an official judging panel is three. The panel will be guided by a Judge Chair appointed from within the panel. The judges will evaluate the performances based on criteria outlined below on the Judging Form.  
  
27) One or more Lay Judges will be chosen and will only judge the Appearance, Stage Presence/Audience Appeal, and Entertainment Value.  
  
28) Performers are required to sign up for contests no later than one week prior to the event or a date advertised by I.B.M. Ring 1. Those signing up for performances will not be informed of who else is signed up to perform until after the sign-up cutoff date. Last minute entries (day of the event) will be allowed at the discretion of the Contest Chair.  
  
29) Sufficient time between acts will be provided to allow the judges to adequately evaluate and rate each performance and to provide appropriate comments.

30) A Contest Scorer will be chosen by the Contest Chairman to tabulate all scores, conduct a post evaluation with each judge, and provide the final tallies to the contest chairman.

31) Individual Post Judging review with each judge will take place after all contestants have performed. This will be held with the Contest Scorer to help level set the various scores across all contestants and to verify that the scores stand or need to be adjusted. It is not to persuade judges to change their scores, only lay out their individual judging scores and verify that they are accurate.

32) The Contest Chair may offer all contestants the option to have a camera and TV monitor to allow better view of the performance table for the audience. The option must be made to either all contestants or no contestants.

33) Seating for each judge should be in the front row and assigned by the Contest Chair. It is not up to the judges to find their seat.

34) Judging sheets are to be collected after each contestant.

35) Pre-contest meeting with judges should be held just prior to the contest. At this time, the Contest Chair may offer suggestions, such as the use of a judging technique to start the first performer with a midgrade score. Another example is using the same score for all contestants if there is a judging criteria that the judge considers to be not applicable for the contest (e.g., Stage Craft for close-up contests).

36) The Contest Chair may change the venue with the approval of the I.B.M. Ring 1 Board of Directors.

37) The Contest Chair should enforce these rules.

38) Contestants set up in full view of the audience. Audience members are not required to look away or step out of the room when contestants set up for their routine.  If a contestant sets up in front of the audience and exposes how the magic happens, judges may deduct points for that even though the exposure did not occur during the performance.

39) Each performer will be encouraged to allow I.B.M. Ring 1 to record, by any method, their performance. Each contestant will be asked to sign a permission form and agree to release all copyrights of the recording to I.B.M. Ring 1. The Contest Chairman is responsible for collecting signed forms from those who consent.

40) Any person recording, by any method, the contest performances on behalf of the I.B.M. Ring 1 must sign a “Work for Hire” agreement that releases all copyrights to I.B.M. Ring 1.

41) The Contest Chair will announce at the beginning of the contest that all audio, video, and photographic recordings not done by I.B.M. Ring 1 are prohibited without the expressed consent of the performer and any other persons who are recorded. Any person with permission from a specific performer may record that specific performer only. It will be the responsibility of the Contest Chair to verify with the performer, if any such permissions have been given.

42) The winner is of each category and division is the person with the highest total score from the judges. The second-place winner has the second highest total score from the judges. The third-place winner has the third highest total score from the judges. If there is a tie, the judges will discuss and rescore until there are no ties.

**Rules specific to Stage Magic (not applicable for Close-up Contests):**

For stage magic, contestants’ assistant(s) need not be members of the I.B.M. or I.B.M. Ring 1.

Definitions and Examples:

There is a gray area between the difference between close-up, stand-up, and stage magic. Close-up magic can be performed on stage or in a stand-up performance, but stage or stand-up magic cannot be performed in a close-up performance. The following are guidelines, not rules, for determining whether a routine meets the qualifications to be considered close-up magic:

* Close-up magic does not need to be performed seated or behind a table.
* Strolling magic is close-up magic.
* All items, combined, involved in the routine should be less than 1800 cubic inches when traveling.  1800 cubic inches is roughly the size of a standard briefcase.  To be clear, this guideline is about the total volume, not specific dimensions.  A very long wand that does not fit into a standard briefcase could still be acceptable.  Items that collapse are measured in the collapsed state if it is normally collapsed while traveling.
* All items, combined, involved in the routine should be carriable by the performer without any help from others. An exception might be a small table.
* The routine should be performable using volunteers who are no further than 3 feet away.
* Except when soliciting the broad audience for volunteers, interaction with the broad audience is not generally considered close-up magic. However, routines that involve a few people standing close to the performer are acceptable.  For further clarification, it is ok for the performer to speak loudly and towards the broader audience so people can hear, but the performance itself should not directly interact with the broad audience.
* Examples of common close-up magic include coins, cards, ropes, dice, mentalism, small linking rings, metal bending, thumb tips, and silks.  Examples of magic that would not be considered close-up magic include large illusions and props, ~~large~~ escapes, roll on tables, and routines that involve the entire audience.
* Sound effects and music are allowed.

The Preapproval Board and judges determine whether a routine meets the definition of Close-up, Stand-up, and Stage magic. To minimize the likelihood of disqualifications, performers are encouraged to seek preapproval of their routines, if there is a Preapproval Board for the contest.

**Judging criteria terms and definitions:**· Appearance: Personal appearance, with emphasis on costuming, apparel and grooming. The contestants costume shall be appropriate to the act.  
· Stage Craft: The appearance and handling of the apparatus, special lighting effects, use of the microphone. Stage technique, movement on stage, use of stage space, etc.   
· Stage presence / Audience appeal: Is the contestant comfortable, at ease, confident? Was the performer able to hold the audience’s attention? Does the contestant control the show?  
· Ability and Technique: The dexterity and extra skill used in performance. Was the audience surprised? Was the technique concealed in the delivery or by the use of misdirection? Were there any errors or flashes? How well did the performer handle technical difficulties or mistakes?  
· Presentation: Was the act routined? Was there a theme or continuity to the program? Choice of material, handling of the props, and/or assistants, use of the available stage space?  
· Entertainment Value: The most important of all the qualities, because a performer could be “Perfect” in all other criteria and fall short on having an entertaining act. Was the reaction spontaneous and/or prolonged? Was the response appropriate to the situation?  
· Originality: Was there originality in effect, method, or presentation? Covers standard as well as novelty presentations, new principles, concepts, or ideas displayed in the act.  
· Time: One ranking point will be deducted for each 30 seconds outside the performer’s allotted 8-minute minimum or 10-minute maximum. Only one judge will record the score for the Time category. That score will be entered on each of the other judges Judging Forms.  
· Rating Method: Contestants will be evaluated individually, in each of the above categories using a 10-point rating system as follows:  
1. = Bad   
2. = Very Poor   
3. = Poor   
4. = Mediocre   
5. = Fair   
6. = Good  
7. = Very Good  
8. = Excellent   
9. = Outstanding   
10. = Perfection  
  
Judges should offer constructive commentary to entrants, give them feedback of what, in the judges’ estimation, the entrant did well or not so well and explain the scoring given. The individual Post Judging Review provides each judge an opportunity to expand upon their written comments made during the contest and level set their scoring across all contestants.  
  
Specific Close-Up Contest Rules  
  
1) There are no microphones in the close-up competition room. You may be performing for up to 60 people. So, you will have to project your voice so everyone can hear you.

Specific Stage Contest Rules  
  
1) Time allotted for stage set-up is 3 minutes.  
  
2) All music, light, and sound cues are limited to playing your music, operating the spot light, floodlights and minor cues. Special lighting will NOT be handled by our staff. You may bring your own light and sound personnel.

**I.B.M. RING 1 CONTEST JUDGING FORM**

**Performer’s name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Judge: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Scoring category Rating Multiplier Score**

* **Appearance \_\_\_\_\_ X 1 = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Comments: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* **Stage Craft \_\_\_\_\_ X 2 = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Comments: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* **Stage Appearance \_\_\_\_\_ X 2 = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Comments: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* **Ability and Technique \_\_\_\_\_ X 3 = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Comments: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* **Presentation \_\_\_\_\_ X 4 = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Comments: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* **Entertainment Value/ Audience appeal \_\_\_\_\_ X 5 = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Comments: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* **Originality \_\_\_\_\_ X 2 = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Comments: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* **Time \_\_\_\_\_ X 1 = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Comments: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**TOTAL POINTS = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**I.B.M. RING 1 CONTEST LAY JUDGING FORM**

**Performer’s name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Judge: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Scoring category Rating Multiplier Score**

* **Appearance \_\_\_\_\_ X 1 = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Comments: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* **Stage presence / Audience appeal: \_\_\_\_\_ X 2 = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Comments: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* **Entertainment Value \_\_\_\_\_ X 5 = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Comments: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**TOTAL POINTS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**I.B.M. RING 1 CONTEST TIME JUDGING FORM**

**Performer’s name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Timer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* **Time: Actual Time \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ X -1 = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Comments: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**I.B.M. RING 1 CONTEST TABULATION FORM**

**Performer’s name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**OFFICIAL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Scoring category Rating Multiplier Score**

* **Appearance \_\_\_\_\_ X 1 = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* **Stage Craft \_\_\_\_\_ X 2 = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
* **Stage presence: \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_X 2 = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* **Ability and Technique \_\_\_\_\_ X 3 = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* **Presentation \_\_\_\_\_ X 4 = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
* **Entertainment Value/ Audience appeal \_\_\_\_\_ X 5 = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
* **Originality \_\_\_\_\_ X 2 = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* **Time: Actual Time \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ X -1 = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**TOTAL POINTS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**