



# CONTESTANTS REGULATIONS 2025

## 1. Background

**Mr Rubber Europe (MRE)** is a contest organised by the **Confederation of European Rubber Clubs (CERC)**, a growing not-for-profit organisation composed of clubs, associations and interest groups from several European countries. Founding members include: Dutch Rubbermen, Rubber Spain, Leather Friends Italia, French Rubbermen, PLAY (Polish Latex Assembly), Belgian Rubbermen, Leather Club Roma.

The aim of the Mr Rubber Europe contest is to elect a representative of the vibrant European rubber communities as a way to further promote and boost the rubber scene at large across the continent.

The contest was first held in 2018 and 2019 during the Darklands festival in Antwerp (Belgium). After a pause due to Covid, the contest was held again in November 2024 during Barcelona Rubber weekend and is meant to travel across Europe.

The **MRE Contest Committee** is the body responsible to apply the rules and regulations presented in this document, and to take any related decisions. The MRE Contest Committee consists of the CERC Board members plus one representative of the 2025 hosting club Leather Friends Italia.

## 2. The contest

The next Mr Rubber Europe will be held on **12-14th December 2025 in Padova, Italy**, hosted by **Leather Friends Italia**.

The contest will include 2 main sections: a private interview with a jury and a public section on stage.

During the **private jury interview**, the contestants will have the chance to present themselves as well as a project that they would lead during their year as Mr Rubber Europe and beyond.

The **public section** will take place during the public election event, and will consist of several appearances on stage, including:

- **Presentation:** where the contestants will be presented to the audience.
- **Fantasy / show:** where the contestants will have the opportunity to show the jury and the audience their love for rubber. Participants might bring up to 2 other persons to help on stage.

The details like stage size, technical requirements for music soundtracks, etc. will be communicated to the contestants in advance.

The maximum number of contestants for the competition is 9. The Contest Committee reserves the right to vary this number.



All contestants must be present at the agreed times for the Jury Interview, rehearsals and any other appointments during the Mr Rubber Europe weekend.

The contest will be held in English. If a contestant needs an interpreter (including sign language), they are welcome to bring one. If they need help finding an interpreter, the Contest Committee will do their best to find one.

### 3. Who can be a contestant

To become Mr Rubber Europe, prior experience as local or national titleholder is not required.

In order to qualify as a contestant for the Mr Rubber Europe election, an applicant must meet the following requirements:

1. Be a citizen of a country within geographical Europe.
2. Be at least 18 years old when submitting the application.
3. Have a sexual identity on the continuum from non-binary to man-ness (ref. the [Genderbread person model](#)).
4. Submit a complete application.
5. Contestants must arrive in Padova no later than Friday morning and leave not earlier than Sunday afternoon.
6. Agree to hold the Mr Rubber Europe title with respect and engagement with the rubber communities in Europe and beyond.
7. Agree to attend the following Mr Rubber Europe election.
8. Be qualified and approved as an official contestant by the Contest Committee. *NB: an applicant is not an approved contestant until official communication to the applicant.*

All applications will be reviewed by the MRE Contest Committee, who has the right to decide who will qualify to become an official contestant, based on the following guidelines:

1. **Rubber titleholders (current and <12 months from step-down):** applicants that meet the requirements a-d above, and that carry an active Rubber title, or that had their step-down less than 12 months before the date of the Mr Rubber Europe election, are automatically qualified to be contestants.
2. **All other rubberists:** the Contest Committee will review all applications and - if needed - hold a preselection. A preselection can include an interview with the MRE Contest Committee. This preselection will be held at least 30 days before the date of the election, to make sure that all contestants can arrange their travel on time.

Each contestant will be required to sign an audio/video release form and waiver, giving the organisers of Mr Rubber Europe contest and affiliated bodies full rights, copyright use, reuse broadcast and or publish all audio/visual media – and accepts that they waive any right to inspect or approve the captured audio/visual media before publication.



## 4. Timelines & deadlines

The most important dates are:

- Applications will open on **30th August 2025** and close on **5th October 2025**.
- All applicants will be notified by **15th October** if they are selected as Contestants for Mr Rubber Europe election.
- The MRE Contest Committee reserves the right to deviate from these dates, if necessary.

## 5. The Jury and scoring

The Jury is selected by the MRE Contest Committee and will consist of 5-7 persons known by their engagement in the rubber and kink community.

The **Jury** will be responsible for 80% of the total score. Of this, 75% will reflect the contestants' interview, their interactions on stage, and their overall presence, and 25% will reflect the contestants' suggested project.

The **public vote** will count towards 20% of the total score. Public vote might be online and/or in person. If both on site and online voting is used, they will count equally (each 10% of the total score).

In case of a tie, the in-person vote will decide the winner.

## 6. What is expected from a contestant

We expect that a contestant aims to promote and boost the rubber scene, clubs and communities on the European continent. Therefore, we expect that each contestant will promote the contest as well as their own participation on their social media channels prior to the event.

Each contestant needs to be present during the event and be on time for the obligatory meetings, like the jury interview, rehearsals, and the election. Non participation will result in instant disqualification.

We also expect that all contestants uphold respectful behaviour towards all contestants and attendees.

Advertising or promotion of non-commercial initiatives can be introduced by the contestants without the previous approval of the Contest Committee.

However, contestants may not do commercial advertising, whether of their own or other brands. This is to ensure fairness for the sponsors who make the MRE event possible and to protect the Mr Rubber Europe name.

Mentioning personal sponsors is allowed, but the MRE Contest Committee needs to be informed in advance.



## **7. What is expected from the winner of Mr Rubber Europe**

The European rubber clubs and scene are renowned world-wide for their fun, social, respectful and friendly atmosphere. These are values we expect Mr Rubber Europe to live and represent.

The community expects that the title will be used in ways that contribute positively to the rubber communities. This may include initiatives promoting mental and physical health, or any other project or initiative that Mr Rubber Europe has affinity with, no matter how small or large these may be.

The winner must be a worthy spokesperson who will not bring the community or the title into disrepute. They should be someone who embodies the core values of the fetish and kinky community: care, respect, integrity, diversity, generosity, and trust.

Beyond the support provided by the generous sponsors, it is expected that Mr Rubber Europe will provide for their own travel expenses. There are no expectations about the number of trips that Mr Rubber Europe should do, with only one exception: Mr Rubber Europe is expected to be present at the next Mr Rubber Europe election for their step-down and to serve on the jury panel.

The MRE sash: it is expected that the winner will ensure that the Mr Rubber Europe sash will be well looked after, and in the event of damage or loss, the contestant may need to cover the cost of a replacement, at the discretion of the CERC Board.

Note on so-called "sash protocol": some fetish clubs and producers have a tradition of a (long) list of rules for their titleholders regarding when and how to wear their own sash. Some clubs request their titleholders to wear the sash all the time, to wear it on for as long as a hosting titleholder wears theirs, not to wear a sash in the darkroom, etc. etc.

The rubber scene is centered on fun rather than on rules. The MRE sash protocol has only one rule: Mr Rubber Europe is formally allowed to wear or take off their sash at any time they deem appropriate. They do not need to follow other people's rules. If in doubt, Mr Rubber Europe should consult the CERC Board.

## **8. If Mr Rubber Europe brings the title into disrepute or cannot fulfil their role**

At any time, the CERC Board (after consultation of the CERC member clubs) has the right to dismiss the elected Mr Rubber Europe in case he engages in misconduct or any activities that bring the title, the CERC, CERC member club(s), or the sponsors in disrepute, as judged solely by the CERC Board.

In this case, all the prizes and any travel prize that have not been used must be returned. The CERC Board may decide to award the title to the runner-up. The decision will be made public on the CERC/MRE website and social media.

## **9. Unforeseen circumstances**

Should any unforeseen circumstances arise, the MRE Contest Committee shall make a final determination.