

# Participation and Sign-up

There will be THREE themed rounds of poetry:

- Cupid Ain't Shit! (love sucks poem)
- Love is Grand ! (love poem)
- Freak Me, Baby! (erotic round)

Poets may sign up for the slam starting at 8:30 p.m. and not before.

A maximum of 10 poets can compete.

Sign-up is closed once the maximum number of poets sign up, or once the time for draw has been called.

The draw will happen 10 minutes prior to slam. (We will be flexible in cases of inclement weather.)

If you signed up and are not there to draw, it will be up to your competitors to decide if you will take the “one-slot” or if you will forfeit your slot altogether--**MAJORITY RULE**. (Just don't disappear before the draw; we won't re-draw for you.)

Cuts for each round will be determined the day of the slam (dependent upon the number of participants), however all poets should be prepared to compete in all three rounds.

The scores will be used to determine poet order for the second and third round.

**Note:** *Poets coming from out of town (more than 50 miles outside of the venue) who know they are going to compete in the slam may contact us via social media in advance to make the bout master aware. This does not guarantee you a place on the list, but we do like to extend this courtesy to our out of town guests.*

# *Slam Rules*

The slam will work in accordance with traditional slam rules with a few tweaks:

- Each poem must be of the poet's own construction.
- Each poet gets three minutes and 30 seconds (plus a ten-second grace period) to read one poem; if the poet goes over, points will be deducted from the total score.
- A poet's time begins as soon as they say anything on stage or engage the audience in any way.
- The poet may **NOT** use props, costumes, or musical instruments. This includes the removal of clothing.
- The poem can only be performed by one person.
- Poets **ARE** allowed to read from paper or electronic devices such as laptops or cell phones. There will be no point penalty assessed unless it's used as a prop (as outlined above)
- If you do not win, you are encouraged to come back and compete again!

# *Judging*

Five judges will be selected randomly from the audience (see below) and may include a special guest judge designated by the host.

The judges cannot be affiliated with any of the night's competitors.

A sacrificial poet will perform to gauge the judging

The judges will score each poet on a scale of 0-10 using one decimal point to avoid a tie (ex: 4.7, 9.3, 7.1). You will be given scoring instructions by the bout manager prior to the slam.

The highest and lowest of the five scores will be tossed out and the three **MIDDLE** scores added to calculate the poet's score for the round (maximum of 30 pts).

# Penalties

Poets performing poems not of their own construction will be disqualified from the event no matter the score. If the poet is later vindicated, management will return that person's entry fee only.

Poets who go over time will be penalized one-half point (.5) for every 10 seconds they go past 3:30. The penalty begins at 3:30.1

- 3:30 flat and under - no penalty
- 3:60.1 - 3:69 (-0.5) point
- 3:70 - 3:79 (-1.0)
- 3:80 - 3:89 (-1.5)
- ... and so on

At 5:00 minutes the poet's score will be calculated but the poet will be disqualified from further participation in that bout.

If a poet is found to have used props or refer to their clothing and/or accessories or remove any of these items in any way to enhance their performance of a poem, the poet's score will be calculated but the poet will be disqualified from further participation in that bout.

*In addition, any poets performing material deemed offensive such as racist, homophobic, pedophilic, or threatening to the well-being of others will be interrupted, removed from the stage, and disqualified and their performance will not be scored. The management will not provide protection for your views in the venue or off-site. Freedom of Speech comes with some catches.*