

# CAPTURING FIRE

International Queer Poetry Summit & Slam

June 9-10, 2017  
Washington, DC

# SLAM RULES

Capturing Fire 2017  
Slam Rules

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## The Slam Rules

These rules are in place because snags have happened in the past at other events. In order to keep said snags to a minimum at #CapFire7, eradicate confusion should anything unfortunate come into play, and to make sure we have a good clean slam, we've made full disclosure of our rules.

### Participants:

- Each person who plans to participate should have at least SIX TO TEN POEMS total!
- Each poem must be of the poet's own construction.
- The poet may NOT use props, musical instruments, tracked music or costumes. (This includes the removal of clothing and nudity.)
- All poems should be in English, but a sampling of other languages is allowed.
- Poems can only be performed by one person.
- No poet will be penalized for reading their poems from paper or any electronic medium.
- The Slam is open to all queer identifying persons, 18 and up as long as they are present at the time of the draw. Poems do not have to have queer subject matter. All stories and form are welcomed.

### Order of Events:

#### Friday Night:

Queer Cookie Slam

#### Saturday Afternoon:

Semi-finals

#### Saturday Evening:

Final Stage

## The Queer Cookie Slam

- Blind draw will happen for the Queer Cookie Slam Friday night; poets must be there at the time of the draw. The Draw will happen at 9:30pm sharp (Poets are strongly suggested to arrive and check in with a representative by Call 9:15pm.)
- All poets present will draw but not all will compete. If you draw a number you will compete in the slot you drew (1-11.) If you draw a Wild slip or a Sacrifice Slip you will compete in the Wild Card Bout on Saturday.
- No proxy may be used to draw for you. If you are not present, you may not compete in QUEER COOKIE but will be allowed to draw in Wild Card Bout on Saturday night.
- Once the draw happens the order is set and may not be changed.
- After a calibration poet, poets will enter Round 1 to do TWO-MINUTE POEMS!
- **(Do not do your 3-minute poems here! Save them for Saturday. 😊)**
- Once you open your mouth or engage the audience, your time starts.
- (Also, if you choose to issue a Trigger Warning before your poem, thank you for being responsible, but your time has started. Please consider this when preparing your work.)
- The Host will announce the order before the Sac Poet. The host will inform the audience and poets who's "On Deck" – meaning who will come after the poet being called to the stage.

## **Format for Friday's Queer Cookie Slam: Two Rounds.**

### First round

A blind draw will determine order. Poets will be scored on a scale from 0 to 10.0 – judges will be informed they can use any of those numbers including, especially tenth place decimals.

The Last Round will be a **Pop Quiz** round involving the top two poets. (More details provided at the event.)

CUMMULATIVE scores will determine order in the Semi-Final Bout on Saturday, June 10, 2017.

Below is a Rundown of Queer Cookie Slam

- Round 1:
- Sac
- All Poets by bout draw
- a Sorbet Poet (Non-competing)
- Round 2: Pop Quiz
- The host announces the cumulative scores which creates the Semi-final bout order.

## **Saturday Semi-Finals**

- Poets competing in the Queer Cookie Poetry Slam on Friday, June 9, 2017 will be designated a spot in the Queer AF Bout semi-finals based on their rank. No draw is necessary for this bout. The second of the two rounds is determined by score. The poet scoring highest in the first round will go last in the second round.
- The Wild Card Bout is for new poets entering the competition on Saturday will draw. The poet scoring highest in the first round will go last in the second round.
- After a calibration poet, poets will enter Round 1 to do THREE MINUTE POEMS.
- Yes, your poems can be shorter than three minutes. Once you open your mouth or engage the audience, your time starts. (Again, if you choose to issue a trigger warning before your poem, thank you for being responsible, but your time has started.) The Host will announce the order before the Sac Poet. The host will also announce who's "On Deck" The Second round is IMMEDIATELY after the first round (this might mean a poet is performing back to back poems. Please be prepared to do that.

## **Format for Saturday Queer AF Semi-finals**

- \*Two Rounds\*
- After a Calibration Poet
- The 11 Poet Roster from Queer Cookie will do 3-minute poems
- Host will announce order and continuously announce who is "On Deck."
- The top 6 scoring poets (but no more than 7) will move on to Round 2.
- The Host will announce the order beforehand.
- Only those with the 4 highest scoring poets will move on to the Finals.

## Format for Saturday Wildcard Semi-finals

- \*Two Rounds\*
- The entire 11 Poet Bout Draw will do 3-minute poems
- Host will announce order and continuously announce who is "On Deck."
- The top 6 scoring poets (but no more than 7) will move on to Round 2.
- The Host will announce the order.
- Only those with the 4 highest scoring poets will move on to the Finals.

## Below is a Rundown BOTH Semi-Final Bouts

- Round 1
- Sac
- All Poets by new blind draw or by rank from the Queer Cookie Slam
- We will take no more than 7, no less than 6 poets into Round 2.
- The previous round's score determines order. Low to High score.
- The cumulative score from these two rounds determines who will be in Finals.
- The top 4 poets (from each bout) will go to Finals.

## Saturday Finals Stage

- The Draw: we will blind draw all three rounds. You will know where you are in the bout for the next three rounds. After a calibration poet, competitors will enter Round 1 to do THREE MINUTE POEMS.
- Yes, your poems can be shorter than three minutes. Once you open your mouth or engage the audience, your time starts. Again, if you choose to issue a trigger warning before your poem, thank you for being responsible, but your time has started.
- The Host will announce the order before the Sac Poet.
- No poems used so far IN COMPETITION can be repeated. (Those used in side events may be used).

## Below is a Rundown of Final Stage

### Round 1

Sac

All Finalists 8 (no more than 10 poets)

Host announces eliminated poets *immediately into*

### Round 2

Remaining Finalists 4 (no less than 3, no more than 5 poets)

Host announces eliminated poets /who is in the final round

### Round 3

Sorbet poet

The top two poets will compete to become the Capturing Fire Champion

## Penalties.

Poets who go over time will be penalized one half point (.5) for every 10 seconds they go past the grace period. In the 2-minute round the penalty begins at 2:11. In the 3-minute round it begins at 3:11.

2-Minute Round	penalty	3-minute Rounds	penalty
2:10 flat and under	no penalty	3:10 flat and under	no penalty
2:11 - 2:19	-0.5 point	3:11 - 3:19	-0.5 point
2:20 - 2:29	-1.0	3:20 - 3:29	-1.0
2:30 - 2:39	-1.5	3:30 - 3:39	-1.5
2:40 - 2:49	-2.0	3:40 - 3:49	-2.0

... and so on [-0.5 for every 10 seconds over 3:10]

At 3:00 in the 2-minute round and 4:00 in the 3-minute rounds the poet's score will be calculated but the poet will be disqualified from further participation in that bout.

In the Finals bout, the penalty begins after a 20-second grace period.

## Ties: (THIS IS IMPORTANT, SO READ IT!)

Judges should be given stringent directions on use of decimal points, consistency and staying true to themselves (but NOT Score Creep because telling judges about Score Creep invites them to participate in Score Creep. We only ask for what we want and not what we do not want!). Still, ties happen.

### In the event of a tie at Queer Cookie Round One:

The person causing the tie goes first (for instance, the second person receiving the same score) goes first in the Semi-Final bout. In the event of a tie for first place, a blind draw will determine who goes first in the head to head. If there's a three-way tie for first we will calculate all five judge's scores to break the tie.

### For Semi-Finals Bouts

In the event of a tie from Round One (pre-determined draw) into Round Two:

The person causing the tie goes first (for instance, the second person receiving the same score goes first) in Round Two. A three-way tie for low score COULD result in all three poets being cut.

### In the event of a tie at the end of Round Two:

If a tie occurs after we've tabulated the CUMULATIVE SCORE (-the combined scores of round 1 & 2 of semis) we will take both poets to Final Stage. A three-way tie for low score COULD result in all three poets being cut. A new draw will take place before the final bout.

### At Finals

In the event of a tie in Round One to Round Two:

We can take 5 poets into Round 2, but if there is more than two (2) poets tying for low score, we will only take 3 poets into the following round. This means low score ties might result in cutting more than one of the lower scoring poets.

### In the event of a tie in Round Two:

We will take a maximum of 3 poets into Round 3.

If there is a tie from Round 1 to Round 2 or Round 2 to Round 3, the person causing the tie goes first (-the second person receiving the same score goes first).

**We will NOT break ties for second place.**

In the event of a tie for FIRST place at the end of ALL THREE ROUNDS OF FINALS we will tabulate all 5 judge's scores from all three rounds of the Finals bout to determine the winner.

If this results in yet another tie, we will have a one poem head-to-head slam off where the judges choose Poet A **or** Poet B, with the judge's choice becoming the #CapFire17 Champ.

We do not believe ANY of these scenarios will happen. This is all to insure we have a good and EXPEDITIOUS show.

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