

## CRITERIA FOR CUPS AND BALLS MASTERY AWARD

In order to receive the Cups and Balls Mastery award from Ring 16, the following criteria must be met:

1. The performance of a cup(s) and ball(s) routine includes the usual 3 cups approach, a 1 or 2 cup routine, a Chop Cup routine, a bowl routine, or any similar approach. In this document, all will be included in term "cups and balls."

2. The performer must present a performance of a cups and balls routine including some of the following techniques or material:

- a. The production, vanish, or transformation of the "balls," which do not have to be the standard round object commonly referred to as balls. They can include, without limitation, cubes, fruits or vegetables (real or artificial), paper wads, corks, etc.
- b. Production of the cups themselves.
- c. Penetrations through the cups, both by the balls, other cups, wand, etc.
- d. Production of so-called Final Loads.
- e. Production and/or Vanish of the cups.

3. Methods should be varied, and should include sleight-of hand techniques, not merely mechanical means. Use of mechanical devices may, of course, be included. For example, a Chop Cup routine that uses the gaff should be combined with sleights to achieve the total results.

4. The performance routine is very important. It should be smooth, polished and sufficiently involved to demonstrate the performer's in-depth knowledge of the effect. Preferably, the routine should be original, although the performance of a classic routine will not disqualify the applicant.

5. All of the material should be performed in a deceptive manner. Regardless of the entertainment value, magic must fool the audience. While you may not fool the councilors who will be judging the performance, they must be convinced that the material would fool the lay audience. Performances that entertain but do not fool the audience are not magic. They may be comedy, drama, storytelling, etc., but they are not magic.

6. The performance is to be a finished, polished performance, not merely a demonstration. Attire, attitude, skill and presentation are all part of the judging criteria.

7. This award is something to be proud of. It must be earned. The judging criteria will be higher than entry initiation performances. The applicant is expected to be an advanced practitioner of cups and balls magic.