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WriterTok March Madness 2026 Rule Book

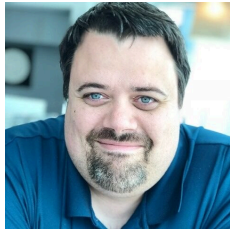
Welcome to the Third Annual Event!

Meet your hosts this year:



[I.D. Marie](#), author of *The Legends of Pangaea* series

And, our newest edition,



[Dietrich Stogner](#), author of *The Aldarri Archives* series

In honor of last year's winner, [*Paragon Exordium* by Mikel Melwasul](#), we have added some rules that follow the theme of the story and last year's Champion: **Peter Blair**.

This year's theme will be:

Corruption

What does that mean for the competitors? Trust nothing: the brackets or your own character...

There will be two brackets of 16 contestants each: Magic and Melee. This means 32 Champions total. Read below to determine what bracket your character belongs in:

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Magic Bracket: Wizards, Fae, Ghosts, Sorcerers, Shifters, and everything in between! If your character utilizes magic to fight, they belong here. This includes magical objects, innate magic, elemental powers, spells, curses, shape-shifting, summoning, archaic spell books, and alchemy.

Melee Bracket: Cyborgs, mutants, soldiers, mad scientists, and anyone who calls the Sci-Fi genre their home. This bracket is for our *fighters* who love grit and technology and take the term *built different* seriously. Typically, these fighters have a scientific background explaining why they're lethal. This could take the form of ray guns, mechsuits, deadly prosthetics, lab-advanced abilities, mutations, and experiments gone wrong.

These two brackets will be separate, fighting in bracket-style elimination until the Championship, where the Magic Champion will battle the Magic Champion for the chance at glory... as much glory as a TikTok tournament can give, obviously.

- Brackets will be announced on February 1 (so you have a month to prepare!)
- The first match will be on March 1
 - ***If you must drop out, let a host know by February 21 (no reason needed; consider this your chance at honorable discharge if you realize you violate any guidelines, like AI usage)***

Champion Reward Pot (subject to grow as more artists pledge):

1. *The Tyrant's Daughter* and *The Prince of Paradise* audiobook (I.D. Marie's series)

Schedule:

Round 1: March 1 - March 8 (one melee and one magic round a day)

Break: March 9

Lapis Match: March 10

Break: March 11

Sweet Sixteen: March 12 - March 18 (alternating brackets)

Break: March 20

Elite Eight: March 21 - March 24

Break: March 25

Final Four: March 26- March 27

Break: March 28

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Dream Realm Match: Match 29

Break: March 30

Championship (Magic vs Melee): March 31

MARCH 2026

M	T	W	Th	F	S	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Elimination Guidelines:

1. On your matchup day, a video will be posted explaining the fighters. Voting will be public. Viewers will vote on who they believe would win the matchup. After **24 hours**, the fighter with the most votes moves on.
2. In the event of a tie, a second video will be posted, allowing the voting to remain open for one more hour. At the **25-hour** point, the winner will be determined.
3. **Lapis Stone (2024 Winner Rule):** The champion defeated in the closest competition in Round 1 receives the Lapis Stone of immortality and can select a Round 1 winner in their bracket to fight for a spot in The Sweet Sixteen.
4. **Dream Combat:** Defeated Champions in The Elite Eight go to the “dream realm,” where they train and improve their combat skills. These four characters will receive a single round of audience voting. The winner gets a resurrection match in the “Dream realm” against the champion of their conference. The winner gets to return to the real world.

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- 5. Cursed Sword:** People you defeat get three votes, to be used however they wish, in every match you compete in from their defeat onward. Will you gain an ally, or will your victories spell your doom?

Disqualification Guidelines (listed in order of severity):

If a character is disqualified, the character who was most recently eliminated will take their spot

1. There is a **zero-tolerance policy** for **Generative AI**. This includes using Generative AI to write your book and/or create your cover. If you submit your work to this tournament, knowing this policy and are caught in violation, you will NOT ONLY be disqualified, banned from further participation, and blocked, but the entire tournament will be notified of the reason for your disqualification. You have been warned.
 - a. *The hosts of this tournament morally object to the use of Generative AI, especially in published works used for profit. If you use this, this tournament is not for you. WriterTok March Madness stands to support and uplift artists who create their own fantastic art from their souls. There will be no exceptions to this policy.*
 - b. Assistive AI is allowed. If you use formatting software, editing software like Grammarly, or plotting software, this is permissible. Our position is against the *generation* and publication of art that is not your own.
2. Unsportsmanlike conduct, bullying, account harassment, doxing, quid pro quo, etc. You will be banned from future tournament participation and blocked by the hosts.
 - a. Hearsay will not be considered in this policy. To maintain the integrity of this tournament, the affected parties must provide evidence and submit it to one or both hosts for consideration.
 - b. If a character/author is found in violation, the specific means for the disqualification will be kept private by the hosts. The tournament will only be notified of the nature of the disqualification: Unsportsmanlike Conduct. What the afflicted parties choose to share beyond that is up to them.
3. If it comes to our attention that your character does not meet the character guidelines, you will be removed. These guidelines are spelled out on the sign-up sheet, which includes:
 - a. Must be a main character with POV chapters (prevents bracket stuffing).
 - b. No AI character art may be used.

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- c. Must be an independently published work. If you have questions if your book qualifies as an indie book, please contact the hosts.
 - d. Abilities used must be found within the PUBLISHED canon (we don't care what they'll *eventually* be able to do, only what people can READ).
 - e. Stats cannot exceed 15 in total (hosts will adjust stats randomly if your character exceeds this count).
4. Authors must agree to be available and online for their matchup dates (participation is the best way to bring the most energy). If an author's participation is nonexistent or if we cannot get in contact with them within 24 hours, their character will be removed.
- a. If a scheduling conflict comes up, inform hosts, and we will do our best to accommodate. Please do not ghost. If accommodations cannot be made, communication can mean the difference between an honorable and a dishonorable disqualification.
 - b. This policy is mainly to protect the authors who want to participate. It is not fair for individuals who did not get a spot in the event to miss out on participation, marketing, and fun while an author who is not participating takes a place.